

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Thai Fears

THE situation in north-eastern Thailand continues to give concern to the authorities in Bangkok and Western officials stationed there. The problem is a legacy from the early days of the Indo-China war when about 50,000 Annamites fled across the Thai border from Laos. There are fears that many are Vietnamese adherents and the temptation to the Thai officials (who see their country as the "front line" of the Free World's defences in Southeast Asia) is to regard these refugees as a beachhead of Communist infiltration. Another source of concern to the Thai authorities is that along the same north-eastern border dwell about five million people of Laotian extraction who have made close contact with their kinsmen across the border. Nobody is quite sure how many of these Siamese Laotians are in sympathy with the pro-Communist Pathet Lao movement in Laos but neither Thai ministers nor Western observers are happy about the situation. Following the Geneva Agreement and the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Laos, two northern provinces of the country were virtually occupied by local Communist bands and although there was a promise by Laotian authorities to give representation to the insurgents in the Administration pending elections, an Iron curtain (re-inforced by thick jungle) continues to divide north and south. Certainly no one in Thailand—or in Southern Laos for that matter—really knows what is going on. The logical—and easiest—assumption is that it is something sinister. To add to Thailand's worries, the north-east is passing through a lean period caused by drought and harvest failures and the consequent destitution and misery in the district is a certain target for exploitation.

YET another cause of nervousness in Bangkok is the activity of war-time resistance leader, Pridi Panomyong who is reported to be organising a "Free Thai" movement under the auspices of Peking in nearby Yunnan province. So far however this latter fear is not taken very seriously by Western diplomats and appears to be only another faggot which the Thais are prepared to kindle to extend the flames of anxiety—within their country as well as in the Western world. For the Thai people are said to be indifferent towards Western defence efforts in Southeast Asia and unconcerned about the dangers to the north-east. The cause of this nonchalance—it is almost apathy—is that the Thai has no chip on his shoulder about "colonialism" or Western domination. Siam has always been independent and even the Japanese, during the few war-time years of control, respected the outward forms of Siamese sovereignty. Consequently SEATO has not had to overcome the suspicion lurking elsewhere about Western intervention in Asian affairs. Thai officials however are inclined to take a lively and eloquent interest in the Manila treaty and in fact almost persuaded Mr John Foster Dulles to call a meeting of the signatory nations last month. But it is possible that they are more interested in the economic clauses of the treaty for the country is at present involved in more development projects than it can finance. The Thais and Western diplomats in Bangkok realise that the best hope of tackling the danger of subversion in the north-east is to raise living standards in the area. Indeed, effort is now concentrated towards that end. But technical assistance and economic aid are inclined to be a long-term answer to what may prove to be a short-term challenge. Speed and vigilance are therefore of the utmost importance.

RADIO STUDIOS GUTTED BY FIRE

Rediffusion Offices Evacuated

FIREMEN'S GRIM FIGHT AGAINST DENSE SMOKE

Youth Taken To Hospital

The main offices and the studios of Rediffusion were severely damaged this morning when a fire broke out in the air-conditioning plant at about 9.15. The fire is believed to have started when the air-conditioning was switched from cold to hot. The fire spread between the ground floor ceiling and the first floor when coke and cork insulating material caught alight and in its smouldering progress sent smoke billowing out through almost every window. So dense was the smoke that firemen in oxygen masks could not reach the centre of the fire. Crowds gathered as about six fire engines drew up to the corner of Hennessy Road and Arsenal Street to fight the fire. By this time smoke was pouring from all the windows of the building. A young Chinese male employee collapsed and was taken away for treatment at hospital.

One after the other, Fire Brigade vans rushed to the building. Police vans also appeared, to keep order near the smoking building. Working with oxygen equipment, firemen hacked away windows of sandproof glass bricks, and tore down the studio's smouldering ceiling. CROWDS OF ONLOOKERS Mr W. Gorman, Chief Fire Officer, arrived on the scene just before noon, when there was a change of wind. Smoke poured from the burning building over a group of stores behind the studios. Crowds of onlookers were immediately organized into chains and were passing goods from these stores out to large piles in Lockhart Road. All the equipment of Rediffusion, which included typewriters and broadcasting equipment as well as records and papers, were loaded onto a Police van, and taken to the Central Police Station. The equipment will be stored there until arrangements for them to be returned to the Rediffusion offices can be made. INSULATOR ON FIRE The Fire Brigade which arrived from the East and West Hongkong Stations, under Superintendent Sergeant and Dale, were battling with a fire of cork and coke insulating material laid between the ground floor studios and the first floor office level. Mr Gorman, wearing civilian clothes, put on a pair of fireman's boots, tied a blue scarf around his neck and went straight into the building to inspect the fire. Belching clouds from the building have laid an effective smoke screen across Lockhart Road and covers the chain of civilians who were passing radio equipment from the group of the Company's nysad huts behind the main building. RECORD EVACUATION Mr J. A. Bendall, secretary of the concern, supervised the evacuation work of the important office papers and disc and tape recordings. Among those who watched the fire was Mr B. H. Lyon, from London, chairman of the Far East groups of Stations, who is visiting Hongkong during a tour of the Rediffusion Stations in his area. He told a reporter, "The important thing which you don't see here is that our Chinese entertaining service to subscribers has not even been interrupted. The Hongkong network was laid out by an engineer who had worked with Rediffusion in Coventry during the Blitz. It would take a lot more than this to really disorganise our service. It's a damned nuisance. But it won't affect our service to subscribers."

ANGRY REPLIES TO McCARTHY ATTACK

Fellow Senators Condemn Him

Washington, Dec. 7. Several Republican and Democratic Senators, including two who voted against censuring him, vigorously condemned Senator McCarthy today for his attack on President Eisenhower.

The Republican National Committee rebuked him saying he committed a "major error" in publicly denouncing the chief executive. Republican Senator Herman Welker, one of McCarthy's staunchest supporters, said he backed the Senator's statement. He said the President should be censured for his attack on McCarthy.

NO COMMENT Senate Republican leader Mr William Knowland, who voted against censuring McCarthy, declined comment. Colleagues who spoke out against McCarthy after he made his attack on the President used such terms as "not true," "unjustified" and "improper." Republican Senator Ralph E. Flanders, who originated the censure proceedings, said McCarthy's "intent may be to lead down to a 'declaration of war' on both the President and the Republican Party." Republican Senator Arthur V. Watkins, Chairman of the Select Senate Group that recommended censure, said McCarthy's attack "shows him to be the same irresponsible McCarthy."

A MAJOR ERROR Republican Senator Leverett Saltonstall said that he was "sorry to see two men who are trying to do the same thing, get into personalities." The Republican National Chairman, Mr Leonard Hall, said in a statement President Eisenhower was "fighting the Communists for quite a few years before Senator McCarthy made his maiden speech on the subject in the Senate." "Senator McCarthy has made a major error. Without attempting to evaluate his fight against Communism, I regret to find him in what must be a strange company to him making a personal attack on the President of the United States." NO JUSTIFICATION "The record of the Eisenhower Administration on the Communist menace both at home and abroad speaks for itself."

RAPE TRIAL OPENS AT CRIMINAL SESSIONS

An allegation of rape by fraud was made against Dr Ng Yuk-kin, 49, when his trial for rape opened before the Puisne Judge, Mr Justice C. W. Reece in the Criminal Sessions this morning.

The indictment alleged that on August 28, 1954, at 438 Nathan Road, first floor, the accused had carnal knowledge of Tam Siun, a 24-year-old spinster, without her consent.

The Crown's allegation is that the alleged crime was committed in the course of a medical examination of the complainant who had called at the doctor's surgery for treatment of a stomach complaint.

SPECIAL JURY A special Jury of seven men has been empanelled. The Prosecution is in the hands of Mr W. A. Blair-Kerr.

NO GUM FOR CATHOLICS Before Communion Vatican City, Dec. 7. A Catholic who chews gum before going to Communion commits a mortal sin, according to an expert on Church law in the Vatican City weekly, Osservatore Della Domenica, tonight.

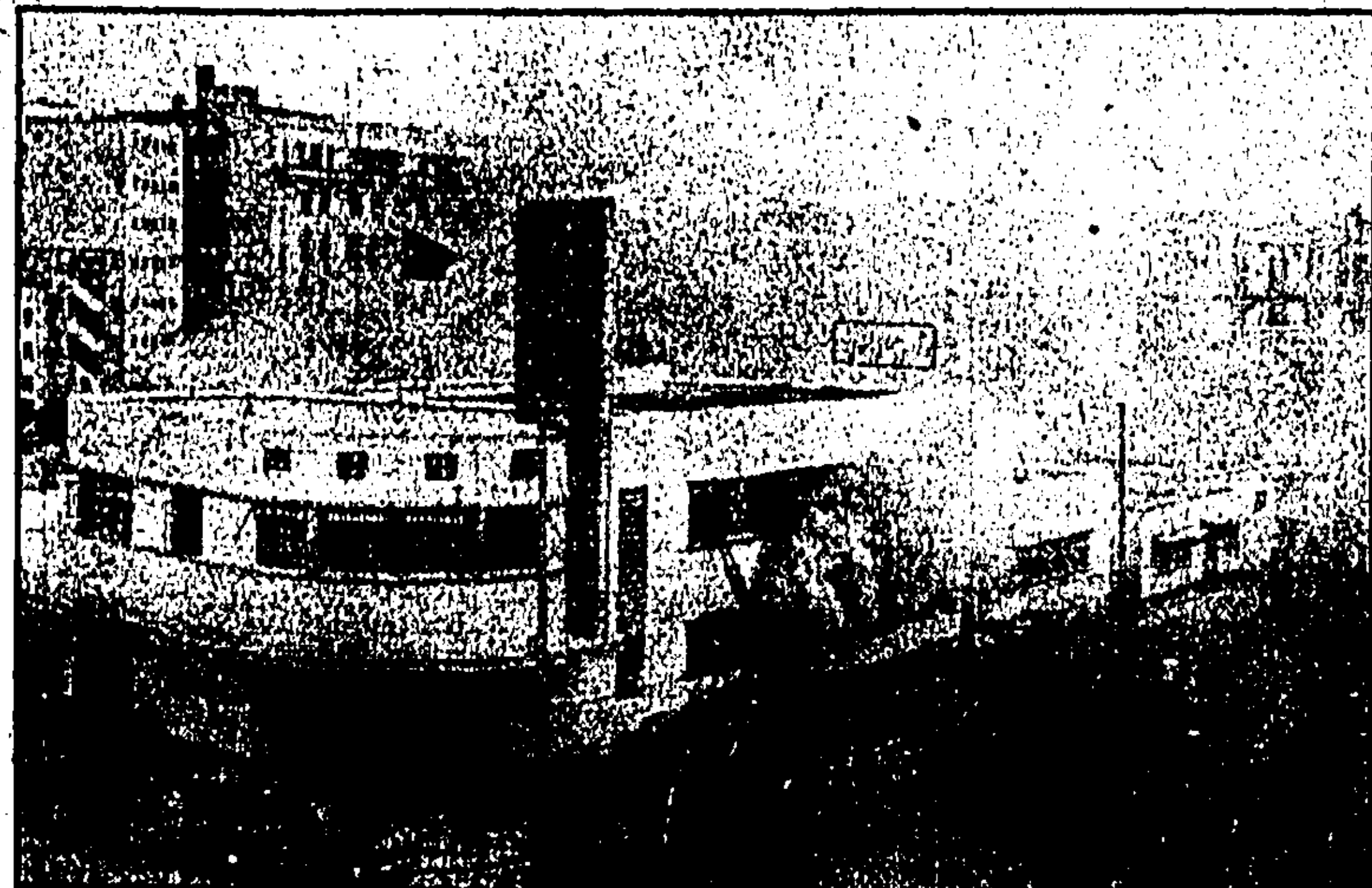
The newspaper had been asked by a Belgian reader if "ordinary American gum" could be chewed before Communion. The expert replied: "American gum contains digestive substances, which, if swallowed, would break the Eucharistic fast."—Reuter.

A Smooth Type (RN) Gets A Delicate Assignment Lieutenant Rodgers R.N. is acknowledged in the ward room of H.M.S. Newcastle as a smooth type. So smooth in fact that he's playing the part of Cinderella in the ship's Christmas pantomime.

Today Newcastle arrived in the Colony after undergoing a refit in Singapore and before the ship was properly docked, Lieutenant Rodgers leapt nimbly ashore on a delicate assignment. His task—to invite visiting film star, Ava Gardner to tea on board this afternoon.

Would she be piped aboard? our reporter asked chasing Lieutenant Rodgers down the dockyard. "No," came the breathless reply, "but she will probably be welcomed with open arms."

Firemen Prepare For An Onslaught



Firemen outside the Rediffusion Building this morning prepare for an onslaught on the fire. They can be seen climbing the ladder to the first storey. (Staff Photographer).

4 More U.S. Airmen Held By Red China

New York, Dec. 7. The United States informed the United Nations Secretary-General tonight that four additional American airmen were being detained by China in violation of the Korean armistice agreement.

The disclosure was made in a letter from the chief United States delegate, Mr Henry Cabot Lodge, to the Secretary-General, Mr Dag Hammarskjöld, in advance of General Assembly consideration tomorrow (Wednesday) of the case of 11 American airmen being held by China.

APPROVAL EXPECTED The Assembly was expected to approve the recommendation of its Steering Committee that the case, entitled "complaint of detention and imprisonment of United Nations military personnel in violation of the Korean armistice agreement," be placed on the agenda. Britain has moved that the question be debated in the full Assembly immediately rather than being referred to a committee.

The 15 nations that fought in Korea have already drawn up a joint draft resolution for submission asking the Secretary-General to seek the release in accordance with the Korean Armistice Agreement of the 11 American airmen and "all other captured personnel of the United Nations Command still detained."

NAMES GIVEN In his letter tonight Mr Lodge said that in addition to the 11 Americans "there are four American airmen who were captured while engaged on missions of the United Nations Command in the Korean conflict and whose detention is admitted by the Chinese Communists." He identified them as: First Lieutenant Clyde Cameron, Captain Harold E. Fisher, First Lieutenant Roland Parks and Lieutenant - Colonel Edwin Heller.—Reuter.

ANOTHER LABOUR CENSURE FAILS

London, Dec. 7. Sir Winston Churchill's Government tonight defeated by 298 votes to 269 a Labour opposition motion seeking to censure it for showing an "unwarrantable complacency towards the continued existence of social injustice in Britain."

The motion also accused the Government of a "doctrinaire determination to abandon public enterprise, essential controls and other forms of intervention by the community."

Mr Gaiskill said Conservative assertions that nationalization brought inefficiency were "silly nonsense."

A BAD POLICY Steel production went up when the industry was threatened with nationalisation and continued to go up when it was nationalised by Labour, he said.

The Opposition did not believe in controls for their own sake. But a return to complete laissez faire, which the Conservatives were doing was bad. Mr Reginald Maudling, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government had dealt with the balance of payments crisis bequeathed by the Labour Government. It had restored the international value of the pound, dealt with the legacy of inflation and achieved record levels of output and productivity of a sound financial basis.

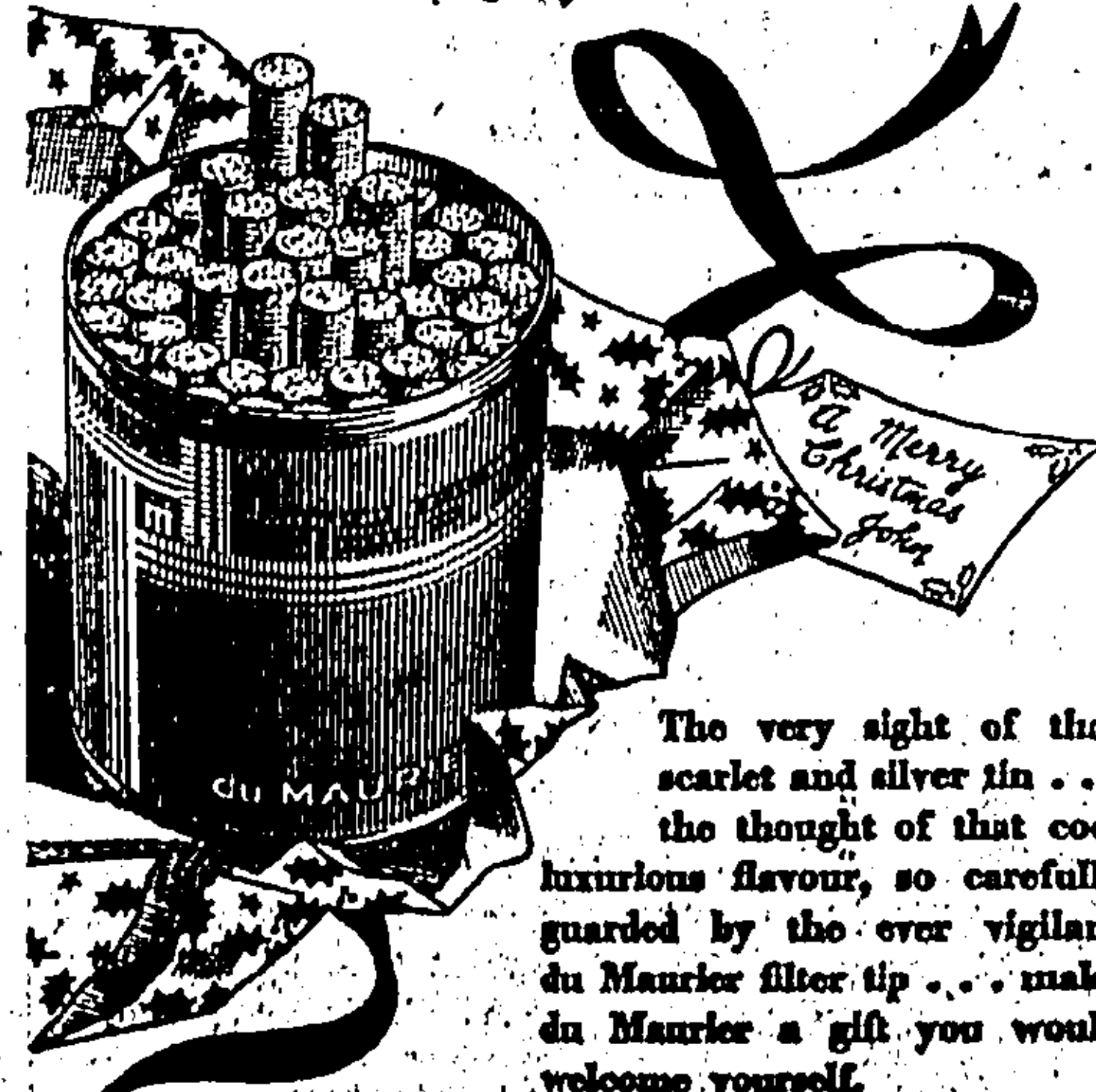
NO SENSE AT ALL It had also achieved a great social advance in housing by building 300,000 new houses a year—and it was now raising old age pensions.

In the light of that the motion made "no sense whatever." "The Parliamentary Labour Party today decided not to oppose the Government's proposals that Britain should pay direct higher weekly contributions for increased 'welfare state' benefits.—Reuter & China Mail Special.

Next Premier?

Tokyo, Dec. 8. Ichiro Hatoyama, once purged by General Douglas MacArthur as an "ultra-nationalist," today rose as the most likely candidate to become the new Prime Minister of Japan. But the date on which the Diet would elect the successor to Mr Shigeru Yoshida, who resigned with his Cabinet on Tuesday, was still unsettled.—United Press.

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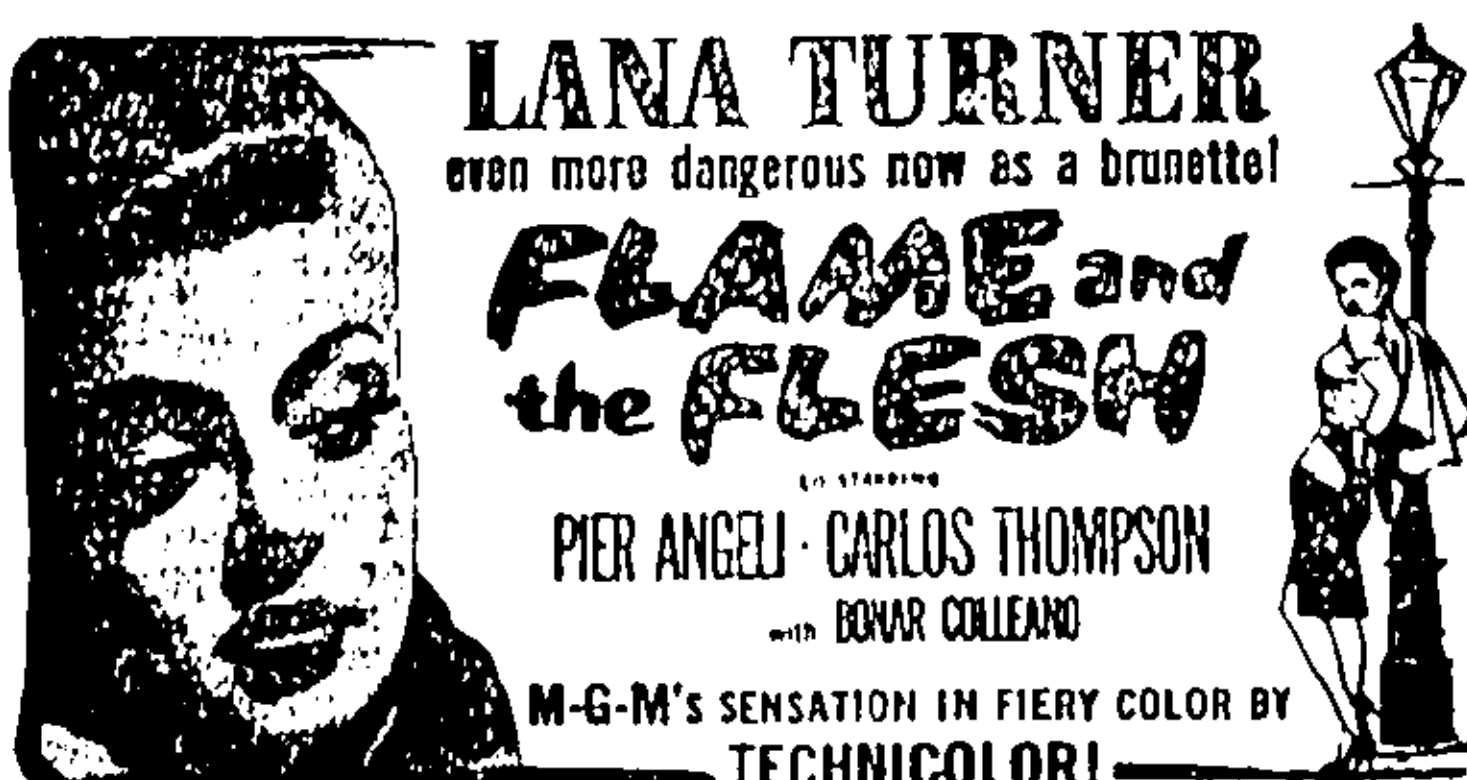


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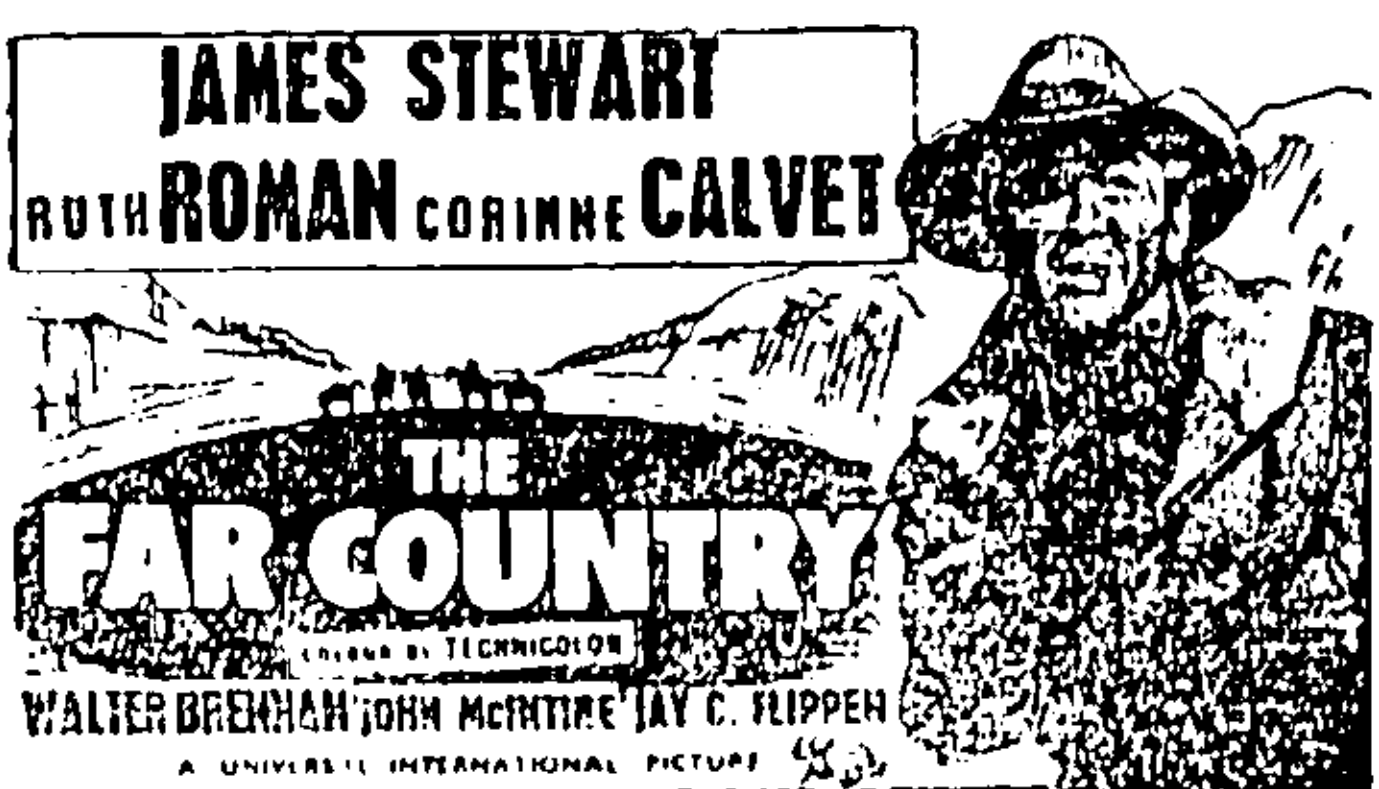


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KOTELAWALA APPEALS TO AMERICA

Economic Defence Is Bastion Against Communism

Washington, Dec. 7.

Sir John Kotelawala, Premier of Ceylon, said here today that "the first defence of Asia must be an economic defence" and that "the military aspect is secondary."

Sir John, who is on a three-day visit to the U.S., said in an address before the National Press Club: "This is the reason why we have not found possible to agree with SEATO, although we are still prepared to maintain an open mind on the subject."

"We in Asia do not believe that our first need is a defensive pact against aggression. We certainly want peace in Asia—in fact, it is the one thing we want—but we believe that peace in Asia should primarily be the responsibility of Asians themselves and that others

must not intervene unasked in the professed interests of world peace."

"We are convinced that in Asia our first object should be to prepare for peace and not for possible aggression. Our countries want to live together in peace, and we are willing to overlook ideological differences as long as they are strictly kept within the boundaries of the countries concerned."

MACHINERY NEEDED

"The machinery needed in our part of the world is machinery for ensuring peace and not machinery for anticipating war."

"Communism does not flourish on a full stomach. The cure for Communism is therefore obvious. We must set about, here and now, raising the living conditions of the people of the under-developed countries."

"I say here and now because I want to remind you of something which may have escaped your attention."

Sir John warned his listeners that the poorer countries of Asia might be lured by the economic success of Communism in China.

"China has improved her economic standards considerably in a few years of Communism, while her neighbours are yet lagging behind. If therefore the poorer countries of Asia are not assisted to their feet by the richer countries of the world, and assisted with the least possible delay, the spectacle and the example of China would simply be disastrous. There would be many defections from the free world and democracy would have met its Waterloo in Asia."

"This is what you and I must specially remember, and that is why economic development in Asia should be speeded up with almost superhuman speed."

"This is the job that confronts us in Asia, namely, that of the immediate improvement of living conditions, and it is a front-line job in the battle against Communism. We cannot do the job alone and we want everyone's help in doing it. We want economic help in plenty and this is the time to give it. I trust that America will take the cue and act accordingly, and I am happy to see from recent reports that America is coming round to our point of view, which we think to be the right one."

"And this aid, whoever gives it, must be given in the right spirit and manner. It should not be smothered with conditions and clauses, nor should it be given in the manner that gifts are distributed at Christmas time."

CO-OPERATIVE EFFORT

"It should be given as a contribution to a great, co-operative effort which is to benefit the giver as much as the receiver, for, remember, by helping Asia to save herself from Communism, you are saving yourselves and the world from Communism."

"And it might be as well to remember too that what we want is not just money. We want aid in skills, we want aid in techniques to build up our countries. If America will give us this aid, as others are doing, she can safely leave to Asia the job of defending herself against Communism."—France-Press.

POPE WILL HOLD CONSISTORY

Vatican City, Dec. 8.
Pope Pius XII, slowly gathering strength after a dangerous crisis last week, plans to hold a Consistory to create new Cardinals next month, a high authority said here last night.

The Pope's doctors hope that if he maintains the progress he has made in the past four days he will be able to go through the ceremony of the Consistory.

An authoritative Vatican source said yesterday that the 78-year-old Pontiff, whose stomach illness has not yet been accurately diagnosed, had a calm night and was able to eat "a little more" than Monday.

XMAS BROADCAST

It was thought likely that the Pope would announce the names of six new Cardinals in a world-wide broadcast he plans to make on Christmas eve.

According to present plans he will confer the regalia of their office as princes of the Church on the new Cardinals at the Consistory a month later. It is thought certain that Archbishop Giovanni Montini of Milan and Monsignor Domenico Tardini, Pro-Secretary of State for Extraordinary affairs, will be among them.

This evening listeners in most countries of Europe and North America will hear the Pope recite the "Hail Mary" and give his Pontifical Blessing at a ceremony ending the Marian Year in honour of the Virgin Mary.—Reuters.

Hong Kong Birds

Herklots, G. A. C. 1953.
Hong Kong Birds, Pp. vii+233, 11 pls., 8 in colour, numerous black-and-white drawings in text. Hong Kong: South China Morning Post, Ltd. HK\$35.00.

"...a most welcome handbook for ornithologists resident or stationed in Hong Kong. All the hitherto recorded species are included; plumages are clearly and concisely described, and a short account is given of field characters, voice, habits, status, etc. The illustrations, except for three plates of photographs, are all by Cdr. A. M. Hughes, and include four attractive plates of the heads of 42 species and many useful drawings in the text. The writer of this review would have benefited greatly from this book when stationed in Hong Kong some years ago. Even now, on referring to it, some 40 unfamiliar species on which notes were made at the time have almost all proved easily identifiable."—D. W. S.

(Extract from "The Bird" official organ of the British Ornithologists' Union, British Museum).

S. C. M. POST
HONG KONG KOWLOON



This little native looks nice and comfortable as he is carried in a basket aboard a French transport in northern Indo-China. The boat was carrying native Catholics fleeing from Vietnam occupation.—Express Photo.

Merchant Navy men want world passport 'It Would Help With Police'

London, Dec. 7.

An international seamen's passport, to be recognised by all ports, is being demanded by British merchant navy navigators and engineer officers.

They have been told that a new British seamen's card, in a waterproof material cover,

with embossed crest and lettering, and the bearer's photograph, is to be issued to British seamen.

But the Navigators and Engineer Officers' Union decided to press for an international passport.

"It frequently happens that seafarers in a foreign port are unable to satisfy police or other authorities as to their bona fides and identity," said a union spokesman.

"If a document of the kind suggested could be provided on an internationally recognised basis, it would be the personal property of the holder and serve a very useful purpose in these days of stringent security regulations in many countries."

(London Express Service).

U.S. MUST MAINTAIN ARMY

Charleston, S.C., Dec. 7.

General Matthew B. Ridgway said today it would be "dangerous" to assume that mass destruction weapons can quickly win a war without the use of armies.

The Army Chief of Staff addressed a graduating class at the Citadel.

He said that the United States lives under constant "threat of attack by godless Communism."

The United States must maintain ready military strength to prevent or win war, he said.

He made that statement in telling the graduates why so many young men must serve active duty tours in the armed forces and then in the reserves.

DANGEROUS ASSUMPTION

"There is sometimes a tendency to believe that modern wars may be quickly won by means of mass destruction weapons which will make unnecessary the operations of ground combat forces," General Ridgway said in his prepared text.

"No assumption could be more dangerous if used as a basis for planning," he added.

The Army General said that only ground forces could defeat enemy ground forces. He said that ground forces must also seize and occupy the bases from which both air and naval forces must operate.

Moreover, he said, only ground forces could dominate the land and people of any enemy after a war had been won.—United Press.

Nearly 2,000 Fellaghas Surrender

Tunis, Dec. 7.

General Boyer de La Tour, French Resident-General in Tunisia, confirmed tonight that 1,988 fellaghas had so far given themselves up in response to the appeal by the French and Tunisian authorities.

Further surrenders are expected tomorrow in response to the offer of legal immunity, which expires on Thursday at midnight.

An official spokesman said the surrender operation had been completed in northern Tunisia and that it would be concluded on Thursday in the central region.

Since December 1 the armed terrorists have handed in a total of 1,855 weapons of various types and 90,000 rounds of ammunition.—France-Press.

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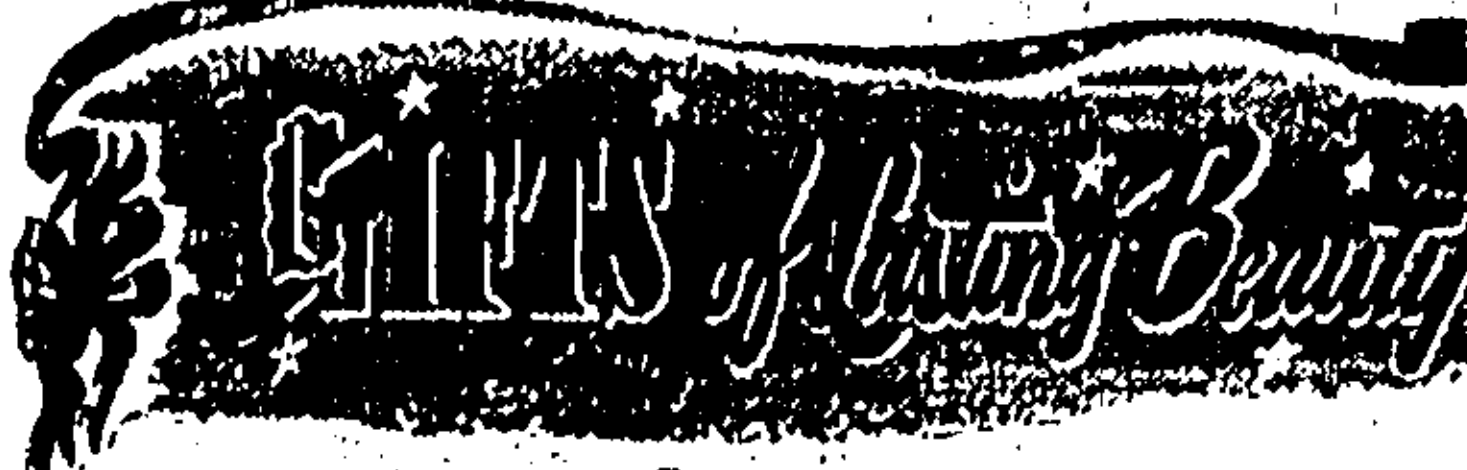
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NATHANIEL GUBBINS

NEWSPAGENTS all over Britain were amazed when animals of every size from elephants to rats besieged bookstalls last week.

The reason, of course, was the announcement of the Animal's Newspaper, edited by N. Gubbins, Esq., and owned and founded by Lord Gubbins, who is also the principal shareholder.

It was unfortunate that both the Gubbinses forgot also to announce that, owing to circumstances over which they have no control, such as the shortage of money and newspaper, the Animal's Newspaper will not be published as a separate journal but incorporated in these columns.

Therefore, to avoid further disappointment, animals are requested to line up in orderly queues outside news stands with 2d. in their mouths and ask for their paper.

For eager, impatient animals here are some extracts from their very own paper, with an introduction to one of its chief contributors.

WHO IS CROSS WHISKER?
Cross Whisker is a young cat who is determined to get on in Fleet Street and has chosen politicians as the victims of his savage pen.

He is free to write what he likes, so long as his opinions happen to agree with the opinions of Lord Gubbins, the genial proprietor of the paper.

What is his line? His line is to tear down the facade of hypocrisy which protects political beasts from the righteous wrath of the stupid beasts who elected them.

What does he believe in? He believes in everything Lord Gubbins believes in. In fact he'd better. Lord Gubbins can always hire another Cross Whisker.

This week Cross Whisker writes: What are the hidden assets of Sam Spitt, M.P., who not only represents the interests of Socialist cats in the Animal's Parliament but is also secretary to the National Union of Alley Cats?

Sam Spitt came up the hard way. Born of unknown parents in a London slum, he first drew attention to himself by his outsize attacks on privilege and the vested interests of rich cats.

His cry was for fair shares for all animals. In his youth he led

a march of starving cats on the overflowing dustbins of Park Lane. He was a starry-eyed idealist with the tongue of a Billingsgate fish porter.

What has happened to his ideals now?

Ex-alley cat Sam Spitt lives in a comfortable villa in the suburbs. He draws fish-heads as a member of the Animals' Parliament and as secretary to the Communist-run N.U.A.C. He also draws half a pound of liver a month as editor of "Yowl", the Left-Wing weekly.

But who also has vested interests, amounting to a virtual monopoly, in all the dustbins of Sam Spitt's Constituency?

Ask the hungry cats who elected Sam Spitt, M.P., ex-alley cat, ex-idealist, ex-believer in fair shares for all.

FLOOR MANNERS
Here is a tiny article on etiquette for dogs by "Paddy", a female poodle who gets around Mayfair.

Your little Paddy has been rushed off her paws getting news for her first column about what the best dogs are doing.

Well, for a start, I can tell you that floor manners have changed and that natural, uninhibited eating, once thought so smart among the younger set, is definitely out.

As fashions usually go backwards we have now reverted to the customs of our great-grandmothers when rich little dogs had their meals in the drawing-room, ate slowly and noiselessly, and always left a little on the plate for man-ners, unless it was because the poor little things had eaten too much.

CORRESPONDENCE

Out of the hundreds of letters from beasts, birds, and insects the Editor of the Animal's Newspaper has room to publish only one this week. He has chosen A Letter from a Flea because of its original point of view.

Dear Sir,
I have noticed with some amusement the fear expressed by human beings in the newspapers that modern weapons of destruction may one day bring about the end of their world.

Has it ever occurred to them that the end of a flea world happens almost every second of the day and night?

A flea's world may be a dog or any other animal, even you, if you are not careful. Thousands of fleas may live on the dog. They marry, have children and are happy. The boundaries of their world are the limited areas of the dog's body just as the boundaries of our world are the limits of land and ocean.

When a dog has an insecticide bath that is the end of one of our worlds. Usually we are all destroyed, though sometimes there are survivors to start a new life in difficult circumstances.

But when one of our worlds dies we have a better chance because we can then make a space journey, or an inter-planetary leap, on to another dog, or, if you like, another world.

There may be as many worlds as there are dogs. In comparison yours may be as small as a Pekinese. If the end of your little world does not occur before space travel is possible you may have the same chance as we have of leaping from a dead world on to a live one.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully
A Flea.

Albert Speaking

ALBERT, the robot writer, was sitting at my desk again wound up and ready to help out with the column.

Any ideas, Albert?

Yes. There's an article from New York about Dr. Paul Popenoe who calls himself the Professor of Love.

I meant clean ideas, Albert. Aren't you touchy? Who said it wasn't clean?

We have to remember this is a family newspaper, Albert. Young people may be reading it.

Young people in America are reading Dr. Popenoe.

What is he writing about? Necking and petting.

I don't call that clean.

He gives advice on how can boys meet girls, how do you know it's love? And four reasons why girls get.

It sounds disgusting to me. But this doctor is grey-haired and married with four children.

That only makes it worse. And he wears rimless glasses. A lot of grey-haired men wear rimless glasses have peculiar ideas.

But listen, this guy is raking in the dough.

You don't have to use American expressions, Albert.

But it's terrific. He's syndicated all over the United States. He's in magazines. He sells pamphlets. He has a stupendous fan mail. He's making a million.

What do you expect me to do about it?

You could write that dope with your eyes shut.

I don't know anything about necking, Albert.

Don't be childish. Everybody does. Why, I could do it myself. Please don't, Albert. We have work to do.

Wait a minute. I can type 100 times faster than you. What do you think of this?

I don't want to read it. Well, I'll read it. Listen, I don't want to hear it. You're missing something. It's jolly good. Heh, heh, heh, heh, heh.

I don't like your coarse laugh, Albert.

Heh, heh, heh, heh, heh. Stop it, Albert.

All right, if you don't want to do it, don't. Dr. Gubbins, Professor of Love, would have swept the country.

Only the dirty part of the country, Albert.

O.K. Write your own clean, damn dull column.

How To Keep Fit

"HARLEY STREET doctors" have been telling us how to keep fit during the coming winter.

Unofficial weather prophets, noting that birds have been collecting red berries earlier than usual and that squirrels are madly storing away nuts in secret places, predict that the weather will be severe.

It was, therefore, considered that old Mr. Gargle, the village centenarian who has never been ill in his life and has seen 100 winters come and go, might have interesting views on the subject.

Old Mr. Gargle was found in the village tavern, his hairy face momentarily hidden by an upturned pint pot. As his face when revealed during a pause for breath, seemed unnaturally red he was offered half a pint only.

"O' allus 'as a pint," said old Mr. Gargle.

"Do you think it's going to be a bad winter, Mr. Gargle?"

"All winters is bad. Some's dry and cold. Some's warm and wet, and some's middlin'."

"But haven't you noticed that squirrels have been unusually industrious collecting nuts?"

"Squirrels allus collects nuts," said Mr. Gargle.

"O' allus birds are collecting berries earlier than usual?"

"Birds allus collects berries," said Mr. Gargle.

"A doctor says that in order to keep fit we should eat a little in the summer and a lot in the winter. Do you agree, Mr. Gargle?"

"O' allus eats a lot, winter and summer," said Mr. Gargle.

"What do you eat mainly, Mr. Gargle?"

"Allus the same. Botted pork and peace pudden," said Mr. Gargle, "and plenty on it."

"Not for every meal, Mr. Gargle?"

"O' for me dinner, cold for me supper," said Mr. Gargle.

"Every day all the year round?"

"Allus the same."

"Christmas Day, too?"

"Allus the same. Only more on it."

"Perhaps you walk a lot to keep fit, Mr. Gargle?"

"O' allus walks 'ere and I allus walks 'ome, twice a day, winter or summer, rain or shine."

"And frost or snow?"

"Take more'n that to stop me," said Mr. Gargle.

"Do you drink much, Mr. Gargle?"

"Allus as much as OI can get hold on."

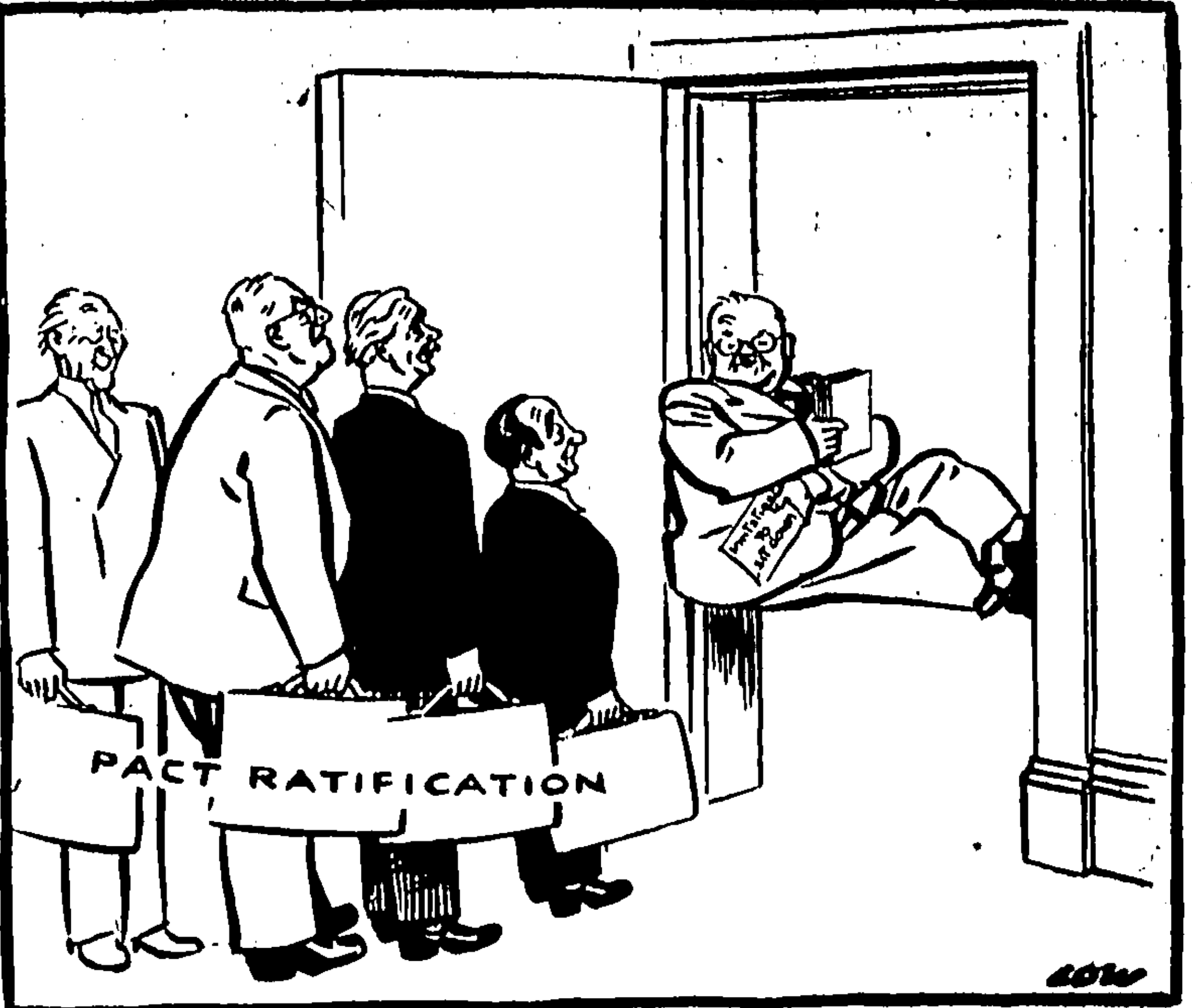
"It doesn't make you ill?"

"It ud make me ill if OI didn't get hold on it."

"May I offer you another half-pint, Mr. Gargle?"

"O' allus 'as a pint," said old Mr. Gargle.

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QUESTION OF TIMING

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Of all the WORLD'S STRANGEST STORIES of the 20th Century, the most baffling is surely that of the FLYING SAUCERS

The Sinister End of Captain Mantell

OF all flying saucer stories the saddest and perhaps the most sinister is that which ended with the death of Captain Thomas Mantell, of the United States Air Force at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

It is the story of a daring attempt to solve what has been called the mystery of the century... of sudden inexplicable silence... of a plane flown by a skilled pilot dropping helplessly to earth from 20,000 feet.

It happened over Godman Field, Fort Knox, on January 7, 1948—a portentous day for all who were stationed there at the time.

Yet it had begun quite normally and cheerfully with routine training in clear, sunny weather. Nobody was thinking about flying saucers.

But that was before the alarm was raised, before the jangling chorus of phone bells sounded and harsh radio instructions crackled from Godman Tower; before the men of Fort Knox ran into the open and stood looking up at the sky with shaded eyes.

Ice Cream Cone

Up there at the hazy limit of visibility was something since described as "a huge ice cream cone topped with red."

Four National Guard F-51 planes roared off the tarmac to investigate, and from one of them as it dwindled into the sky came back the tense voice of Captain Mantell.

"There it is! Twelve o'clock high. It looks metallic... tremendous size!"

None of the other pilots had it in sight and presently Captain Mantell radioed that the thing was climbing rapidly.

"I'm going to follow it up to 20,000 feet," he said. "If I'm closer I'll abandon chase..."

On the ground they waited and then frantically they tried calling him back. But nothing more was heard from Captain Mantell and nothing was seen until his broken body was recovered from the wreckage of the plane which crashed a few miles away.

Meanwhile the "cone," still unseen by the other pilots, had disappeared. And just what happened up there is still in doubt; but there is a persistent belief in some quarters that Mantell got too close, saw too much and was destroyed by some power unknown on earth.

First Sighting

This was not the first flying saucer incident, but it has a fundamental place in the whole mystery. Indeed, it might be argued that if Mantell had not died the flying saucers would have died instead.

The first sighting was six months earlier when Kenneth Arnold, an American business man, was making a trip to Washington from his home in Idaho. The journey took him along a range of snow-capped mountains, and suddenly he was surprised to see a formation of

strange silvery craft apparently swerving in and out of the mountain peaks.

A chain of saucer-like things," he told the authorities on landing.

Flying saucers! It was a great joke then. Soon everyone was seeing saucers, cartoonists worked overtime and hoaxers rampaged the country. But when Mantell was killed it was a joke no longer. Flying saucers suddenly became a world mystery and even a menace.

They have been seen all over the world, and in many countries, including Britain, France, America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, people have formed clubs to exchange information about the phenomena, for even the sceptics now admit that saucers—latterly dignified by the new title of

secretly investigated "with the help of the etherian operators." Another that an artificial satellite has been detected circling the Earth in a fixed orbit.

Since we in our time are seriously considering space travel, it does not seem too far-fetched that forms of life, if not people, on other planets should have beaten us to it. But scientists are unanimous in opposing this idea in relation to flying saucers. Captain Mantell, they insist, was not shot down by a Martian death-ray but more likely blacked out through lack of oxygen and crashed without regaining consciousness.

Firm Grip

And the "cone" he was chasing? It might have been a "skyhook," a buoyon such as is used to study cosmic rays—later whipped away in a high altitude gale. Or it might have been a "mock sun" caused by ice crystals in cirrus clouds which lay higher than Mantell's plane could reach.

This, however, is certain. The incident occurred at a time in the history of flying saucers when interest was flagging and it boosted the scare into a second and more enduring phase which still persists.

So firm is the grip which flying saucers now have on public imagination that however many are explained away every new sighting stirs up the old excitement. One can see no end to it—and no universally acceptable explanation—until inter-planetary travel becomes an accomplished fact and we can get out into space and see for ourselves what goes on.

Meanwhile what have we to guide us? First of all there is history. Strange manifestations in the sky are not peculiar to the present day. As far back as 1940 a book was published called "Strange Signs from Heaven" which listed sightings of many phenomena which might well come under the general heading of flying saucers, and even in the Bible there are references suggesting that ancient peoples were puzzled by them.

Real Phenomena

So it seems that if the saucers are space ships from another world they are an unconquerable time-making "up" their minds about us.

And now for the scientists. They tell us that the big telescopes peering into space from high points all over the world have for years been photographing the night skies but seen nothing suggesting the approach of space ships.

And they say the rapid, erratic movements of unexplained saucers suggest a variety of real phenomena. Some are undoubtedly meteors and fire balls; others are mirages created by lenses of air quite familiar to anyone acquainted with the optics of the Earth's atmosphere. Still more may be attributed to ice crystals behaving as distorting mirrors.

But there is one thing you may be quite certain about. If flying saucers have landed or ever land in future there is no reason on earth why the authorities should try to hide the fact.

More Rumours

And most of the remaining five percent, it is believed, could be explained away with more information about the sightings.

"We have no evidence that flying saucers exist, nor that they don't exist," says the Ministry.

Nor are the experts untricked to hear of saucers being tracked by radar as occurred at a Territorial Ack-Ack H.Q. in South London. The apparatus carried by weather balloons is known to give a radar signal suggesting it is much bigger than it actually is, they say.

But there still remains a slowly increasing number of sightings which, apparently, defy natural explanation, and so the mystery goes on, stimulated from time to time by new and more amazing rumours. One of the latest from America is that five captured flying saucers are being

The Bogus Helms
On Saturday

MIRRORS HELP THE MEN OF MUSCLE

By CHAPMAN FINCHER

THE secrets of the muscle men with bulging biceps and bull-noses are revealed by a doctor today.

The "body-builders" spend hours posing in front of mirrors to perfect their muscle control, Dr. Ian J. MacQueen, of Sheffield University, says after a study of "Mr. Britain" finalists.

When they are watching themselves they seem lift heavier

weights than they can manage when away from a mirror.

By a trick which forces blood into the muscles a weight-lifter can temporarily increase the circumference of his biceps by one and half inches in half an hour, Dr. MacQueen reports in the British Medical Journal.

And another gladiator, the body-builders were from books filled with dumb-bells to boost

JACOBY ON BRIDGE

Repeated Swindle Wins A Top Score

By OSWALD JACOBY

THERE'S nothing very dramatic about the contract in today's hand. At rubber bridge it wouldn't be terribly important whether declarer made or lost this part score. Since it was played in a tournament, however, where each hand is equally important, the play was just as dramatic as the struggle to fulfill a slam contract.

West opened the singleton diamond, and dummy won with the king. At most tables, where South was likewise the declarer at a contract of two spades, the defenders were able to get two spades, together with one trick in each of the remaining suits. There was a different story to tell when Leonard H. Harmon, well known New York expert, held the West cards.

At the second trick, declarer led a trump from the dummy and dressed the Jack. Harmon won with the queen of spades and then promptly led the deuce of hearts through dummy's king. South, thinking that East probably held the ace, played a low heart from the dummy. East won with the Jack of hearts and turned a slam bid for his partner to ruff. East wasn't

NORTH (D. 11)			
♠ 4			
♥ K 7			
♦ A K J 9			
♣ K Q 8 6			
WEST			
♠ A Q 3			
♥ A 8 3 2			
♦ 8			
♣ A 9 5 4			
EAST			
♠ 8			
♥ J 5 4			
♦ Q J 7 6 1			
♣ J 10 3			
SOUTH			
♠ K J 10 7 2			
♥ 10 9			
♦ 3 2			
♣ 3			
North-South vul.			
1 ♠ Pass	2 ♠ Pass	3 ♠ Pass	
4 ♠ Pass	5 ♠ Pass	6 ♠ Pass	
Opening lead ♠ 8			

sure that this play would gain anything, but he was willing to try along with his partner, since the course of the play made it obvious that West was in search of diamond ruffs.

Having executed the swindle once, Harmon tried it again by leading a second low heart through dummy's king. This convinced South all the more that West could not have the ace of hearts. He therefore played low from the dummy and East won the second heart trick with his queen.

East naturally returned another diamond, and Harmon was able to ruff once more with a low trump. The defenders thus gathered in four trump tricks, two hearts and the ace of clubs to set the contract two tricks. The repeated swindle won Harmon a top score.

CARD SENSE

Q—With neither side vulnerable, the bidding has been South West North East 1 Spade Pass 1 NT 2 Clubs. What do you do?

A—Pass, or bid two spades. You cannot afford to bid freely at the level of three, as you can't show the clubs. Even a rebid of two spades is fairly dangerous. Incidentally, you might have been better off if you had bid one club to begin with—the proper opening bid with this sort of hand.

TODAY'S QUESTION

The bidding is the same as in the question just answered. You, South, hold: Spades A-K, 1-7-8-4, Hearts 6-2, Diamonds None, Clubs K-Q-9-8-4. What do you do?

Answer Tomorrow



"Say, isn't this nice! His mother sent him curtains for his room!"

YOUR BIRTHDAY... By STELLA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

BORN today, you are a natural student. Facts intrigue you, but no human beings! You take a vital interest in the affairs of all mankind and are very observant. You have the ability to depict the foibles of others and write about them amusingly. But, as a rule, you are always pointing out some lesson, hidden away among the laughs. You are something of a reformer, deep down inside, but you prefer teaching people how to help themselves rather than getting up on a lecture platform to tell them what should be done!

You have an inventive mind, and if this is used in the field of science or mechanics, you may come up with something new that may revolutionize your entire age. There is a touch of naïveté in your make-up, which should be encouraged. Parents of children born on this day may feel that they are valiant to the normal child. They may be! Even a touch of

genius is apt to make itself apparent early in life! Be ready to recognize the germ and nurture it carefully! All of you born on this day enjoy outdoor life and active sports. You have a great deal of energy to expend and this is one of the ways of utilizing it especially in youth. As you grow older, walking will probably become a hobby. Your affections are deep and an early marriage would bring emotional stability and exceptional happiness.

Among those who were born on this date are: Joel Chandler Harris, author; Padraic Colum, poet; Eli Whitney, inventor; Bjornson, Norwegian dramatist; August Belmont, financier; and Queen Christina of Sweden.

To find what the stars have in store for you tomorrow, select your birthday star and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 22)—A slight reversal in the trend of good fortune which indicates you should exert careful judgment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)—Continue to make progress along the lines begun yesterday. Tempo slows down but results are sound.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)—Be alert to the possibility of a minor crisis which could cause trouble all along the line.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)—Be most careful of saying that you put in writing today. Make sure of all the facts.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 20)—If your work involves important detail, be sure that you are accurate in your undertakings.

Taurus (Apr. 21-May 21)—Carelessness could cause accidents. Machinery or tools, so be on your guard. Take all precautions.

It is also said that "there is a possibility of interesting rain and drenching it over the sea if it is more plentiful than we want." Strabismus suggests that surplus rain should be used in non-porous, inverted bottles, perched on high poles. The bottles could be exported to dry lands, and drenched there. Within a year we should be selling millions of ploughs for use in the Sahara Desert.

In passing

AS a cynical man about town observed, the difference between ballet and all-in wrestling is that a ballet dancer is disqualified if he breaks someone's back purposefully. There is another difference. The music of Tchaikovsky seems out of place at a wrestling match, especially when the bout is in the American fashion, in a pit full of fish. These weighty thoughts were suggested to me when I read that a wrestler had joined a ballet company. I hope he will have a few absent-minded moments. The temptation to throw a dancer into the orchestra pit will probably be almost irresistible.

The Bicyclopedia

THE other day at a concert of American piano music not only were the keys of the piano hit but the strings were plucked. Another good idea would be to arrange the pedals like those on a bicycle, so that the player would seem to be riding his instrument—especially if handbells were fixed one at each end of the keyboard. The occasional jingle of a bicycle bell, attached to the side of the piano, would add realism to the music. Mok Muk, the Eskimo baritone, always sings to the accompaniment of a typewriting machine.

(TOMORROW: How To Play The Wrong End Of The Piccolo)

It is as simple as this

BETTER argument runs like this. Better roads will mean increase of speed for all vehicles, and an increase of

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)—If your mind is a little tired, don't attempt to do important figuring. You could make a costly error.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)—Don't be hasty if you are working in any kind of hazardous occupation. Take your time. It pays.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 23)—If you are alert and awake to all the opportunities you can turn this day into one of real opportunity.

VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)—Don't attempt to "fix it yourself" unless you really know how. Much better to call in an expert.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)—You should be able to succeed with some important project which you have long been planning.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)—If driving, or heavy traffic, be sure that the brakes on your car are in tip-top condition.

speed for all vehicles will mean greater safety and fewer accidents.

DUMB BELLS

TOBACCO BREW AS FAR MIXED WITH SOAPY WATER AS I'M MAKES AN ESSENTIAL FOR THE WASH FOR INSECTS! THE LITTLE PESTS CAN STAY DIRTY

White, 6 pieces. Write to play, mate in three. Solution to yesterday's problem: 1. K1-B5, any; 2. R mated.

An Ominous Threat

By and by, he met his sister Hank and who was sitting on a swing under the maple tree. "I'm going hunting," he said to her. "I'm going hunting with my bow and arrow."

"That's a wonderful idea," said Hank. "But what are you going hunting for?"

"I'm going hunting for an elephant," said Knarf. "And if I don't find an elephant, I'm going hunting for a lion. And if I don't find a lion, I'm going hunting for a crocodile."

"There aren't any elephants or lions or crocodiles in this garden," said Hank.

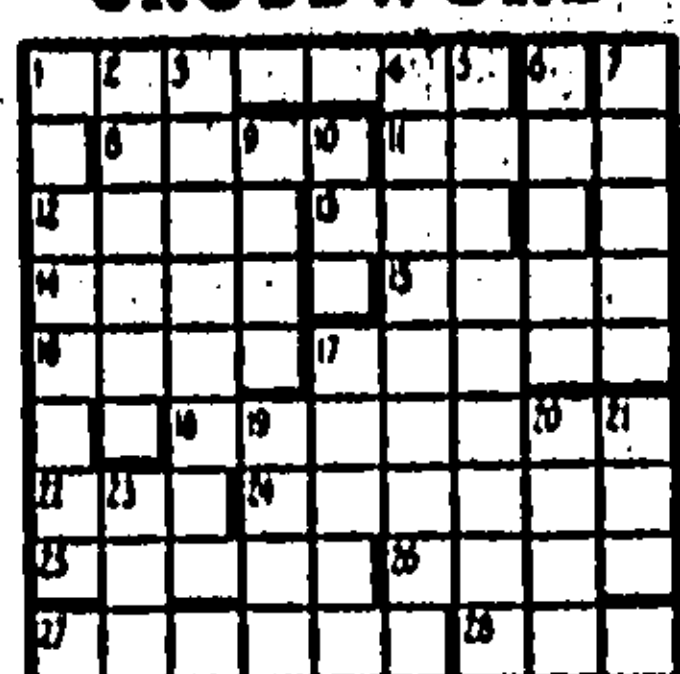
"I'll hunt for them just the same," said Knarf. Then he ran off with his bow and arrow.

By and by, he met Piel the Poodle. Piel wagged his tail joyfully. He liked company. He was glad to see Knarf.

"I'm going hunting," Knarf told Piel. "So am I," said Piel. "I'm going to hunt for an elephant," said Knarf. "And if I don't find an elephant, I'm going to hunt for a lion. And if I don't find a lion, I'm going to hunt for a crocodile."

Reaching the corner, he saw the Cat sitting on collar steps to one side of the grocery store. "What's all the noise about?" asked the Cat. She licked her paw and rubbed her face. She was a very clean cat. Most cats are very clean. They're always

CROSSWORD



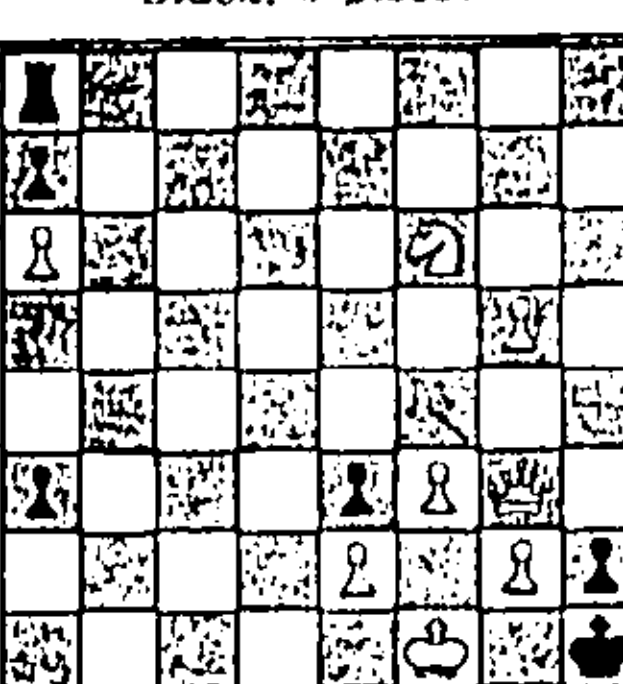
Across

- Change place around when these take place (7)
- Wife who expresses mild annoyance (4)
- Waiting on these occasionally helps in the big pull (4)
- Little comic of old (4)
- Upset bid to make something worth framing? (3)
- Arch 16 Across for him? (4)
- Fire 14 Across (4)
- It may be at the entrance to the shop (3)
- When the price of passage is paid there's a penny left (5)
- A big blow (7)
- Bird from the remuneration (3)
- South Wales is well (5)
- The ladies are honoured (6)
- If you do this, you break on of Polaris's rules (4)
- Does this kind of man move in a very small circle? (10)
- The colour man's material figures early in the song about John Peel (10)

- Down
- Answered back (8)
- Blind (anagram) (6)
- After the fact, it's nothing to a child's stomach (8)
- Let the rot (anagram) (9)
- Strata due—for a good soaking apparently (9)
- There's you for this on the train (5)
- Went did for more (5)
- The odds are the horse is (4)
- Food for a bad actor (13)
- Bole (5)
- This kind of of a 0 o milder here ally (4)
- 20 am (4)
- No (4)
- The shore that is left (3)
- Spill three-quarters of a man (13)
- Today's solution

CHESS PROBLEM

By Z. MARCEC
Black, 6 pieces



White, 6 pieces. Write to play, mate in three. Solution to yesterday's problem: 1. K1-B5, any; 2. R mated.

WOMANSENSE

ATTRACTIVE ENSEMBLE FOR WINTER



Pierre Balmain introduces for the winter season in the "Jolie Madame de Jersey" Collection, this three-piece ensemble—a black woolen Jersey pullover, a black and maroon tweed skirt and a three-quarter length jacket of the same material, with large draped collar.—Agence France-Presse.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

Here is one way to mend a broken dish. Melt powdered alum in a spoon over a flame and rub it quickly over the broken edges, press the two pieces together and let dry.

Radiators should not be painted with dark or metallic paints. Use light-colored wall paint to get more heat from them.

A king fell in love with her . . . and her dishes

CUPID IN THE KITCHEN

By PAMELA RICHARDS

WANT to give your man about - the - house a special treat for dinner? Then take a tip or two from a woman who knew ALL about winning a man's heart by playing Cupid in the kitchen.

She won a king, and in her now world-famous recipes she has left a record of exactly how she did it.

Françoise d'Aubigne, Marquise de Maintenon, was born 319 years ago. Louis XIV fell in love with her partly at least because she persuaded the palace cooks to cook him new and exciting dishes. They married secretly.

Now here is an all-Maintenon meal that will put Cupid in the kitchen for YOU.

★ ★ ★

CONSOMME MAINTENON: For two you need half lb. of lean beef, salt and pepper; one small leek; one tomato.

Cut meat finely, season, cover with half a pint of water, and cook in a double saucepan for two hours. Strain, and serve the liquid garnished with the leek and tomato cut in thin strips (and cooked separately).

You can add small croutons of toasted cheese.

COTELETTES DE VEAU EN PAPILOTES (veal cutlets in paper cases) were invented by Françoise de Maintenon herself (as distinct from the many dishes named after her in tribute).

You need: two veal cutlets (on the bone), three ounces mushrooms, small onion and shallots, four slices ham, butter, seasoning.

Season the cutlets and fry brown each side in butter; chop onion and shallots finely and cook in butter. Add chopped mushroom, a little salt and pepper, and cook gently about 10 minutes.

Prepare two large sheets of paper in the form of hearts and cover thinly with oil or melted butter. Place a slice of ham the same size as the cutlets on one half of each heart.

Cover with a quarter of the mushroom mixture and lay a cutlet on top. Spread on the rest of the mushroom and top with another slice of ham.

Fold over the paper and crimp the edges to form a case. Place the cutlets on a baking sheet in a hot oven for 10 minutes or until the paper is browned and blown out. Serve cutlets in their cases.

Tip on Cleaning Furniture

Lincoln, Neb. Cleaning tip: furniture polish and wax don't mix. Clara Leopold, extension home management specialist at the University of Nebraska, advised that homemakers choose either oil or wax for furniture instead of using wax one week, oil the next. If you do want to change the routine, make sure the old surface is removed first by washing. Wipe the surface with a well-soaped cloth, then with a clean damp cloth. Give the furniture plenty of time to dry, before applying wax or polish.—United Press.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' MAGAZINE

Knarf Becomes a Hunter

—He's Out for Crocodiles and Elephants—

By MAX TRELL

KNARF, the shadow-boy with the turned-about name, found a bow and arrow in the attic. "I'm going hunting," he said. "I'm going hunting!"

He ran outside and down the garden path, still shouting "I'm going hunting! I'm going hunting!"

"That's a wonderful idea," said Hank. "But what are you going hunting for?"

"I'm going hunting for an elephant," said Knarf. "And if I don't find an elephant, I'm going hunting for a lion. And if I don't find a lion, I'm going hunting for a crocodile."

"There aren't any elephants or lions or crocodiles in this garden," said Hank.

"I'll hunt for them just the same," said Knarf. Then he ran off with his bow and arrow.

By and by, he met Piel the Poodle. Piel wagged his tail joyfully. He liked company. He was glad to see Knarf.

"I'm going hunting," Knarf told Piel. "So am I," said Piel. "I'm going to hunt for an elephant," said Knarf. "And if I don't find an elephant, I'm going to hunt for a lion. And if I don't find a lion, I'm going to hunt for a crocodile."

Reaching the corner, he saw the Cat sitting on collar steps to one side of the grocery store. "What's all the noise about?" asked the Cat. She licked her paw and rubbed her face. She was a very clean cat. Most cats are very clean. They're always

licking their paws and washing the face of the cat.

"I'm going hunting," said Knarf. "So am I," said the Cat. "Maybe we can go hunting together," said Knarf.

"That all depends on what you're hunting for," said the Cat.

"I'm hunting for an elephant," said Knarf. "And if I don't find an elephant, I'm hunting for a lion. And if I don't find a lion, I'm hunting for a crocodile."

The Cat licked her paw and rubbed her face again. "I don't care for elephants," she said. "I don't care for lions. I have no use whatever for crocodiles. I'm going to hunt for a mouse."

So Knarf ran on again. Finally at the next corner, stood a policeman in a blue coat with a silver badge on it, and a blue hat with another silver badge on it.

A Happier Kind of Hunting

"Where are you going with that bow and arrow?" asked the policeman.

"I'm going hunting," said Knarf. "You wouldn't," said the policeman, "be hunting for an elephant or a lion or perhaps, a crocodile?"

"That's just what I am hunting for," said Knarf. "Have you seen any around here?"



"I'm going hunting," Knarf shouted as he ran.

"They were here a little while ago," said the policeman. "But they all went up to the zoo. Another hunter got them. You don't have to hunt them any more."

"I'm glad another hunter got them," said Knarf. "I hope they're happy."

"They're very happy in the zoo," said the policeman. "The elephant gets peanuts, the lion gets roast beef, and the crocodile gets herring."

So Knarf went home. "I don't have to go hunting," he told the Cat.

"I don't have to go hunting," he told Piel the Poodle. "I don't have to go hunting," he told his sister Hank on the swing. "The elephant and the lion and the crocodile are already in the zoo. They don't have to be hunted any more."

Rupert at Greylocks Cove-42



At David's words all the mysteries seem to be solved at once. "Of course, you must be right!" gasps Rupert. "Those strange men have brought all that fruit just to cover up the valuable things that they were smuggling!" And that old fisherman, now

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Correct Distribution Of Weight

NO SINGLE POSITION IS SUITABLE FOR EVERY CYCLIST

By "N'TACA"

It has often been said regarding cycling that "Position is Nine Points of the Law," and while this may not be strictly true it is a fact that many a rider has not realised his full potentialities owing to faulty or unsuitable positioning on his machine.

Any position is essentially a compromise between complete efficiency and complete comfort. A cyclist is balanced at three points of contact; the saddle, the pedals and the handlebars; and the correct distribution of his weight between these points can to a large extent determine the amount of useful sustained effort he can produce.

Positions vary from the "over the bar" of the track man to the "sit up and beg" of the utility rider, each being the most efficient for its purpose. In between these two extremes come the short-distance time trials pose—a modified track position; the long distance riders' slightly more upright stance; and lastly, perhaps the most all-round efficient of the lot, the massed-start racer's

which allows him to put in long spells of fast pedalling and yet is sufficiently "fast" to enable him to produce an all-out sprint and to climb and descend hills at speed and in safety.

Two local examples of good positioning are Hurford and Wilkinson. Hurford, with his rather forward reach, has adapted his three points of contact to fit his compact physique and strong, thrusting style of pedalling.

Wilkinson, whose appearance on a cycle reminds one of the "old man," sits much further back, with a fairly low saddle and high bars, which suits perfectly his immaculate "twiddling" style.

Both positions are ideal and efficient—for the riders concerned. And therein lies the secret of this dissertation. No single position is suitable for every rider. Both Wilkinson and Hurford would be severely handicapped if riding the other's machine. POSITION IS AN INDIVIDUAL THING.

BASIC FACTORS

Despite this dictum it is still possible to stipulate the basic factors necessary to ensure good positioning and to lay down a method of obtaining a good average stance on a cycle, one which will allow of modification to suit individual idiosyncrasies and pedalling styles.

The first thing to do is to choose a frame of the correct size, and this can be done quite easily by subtracting 10 inches from the inside leg measurement and buying a frame with a seat tube of the length.

As a rough guide, from 5' 4" to 5' 7", a frame of 21" will suffice; to 5' 8", a 23" model; and over that height, a special frame is called for.

Secondly, the saddle. The nose of the saddle should be from 2-3 inches behind a vertical line drawn from the centre of the bottom bracket spindle to the top of the saddle parallel to the ground.

The saddle is adjusted for height by raising or lowering until the rider, seated squarely on the saddle, can rest his heels on the pedals at their lowest point with a slight bend at the knee.

Lastly, the handlebars. Choose a bar about 14-16 inches wide, to suit your build, with a straight top and a drop of 4-6 inches to the grips. Top of the bars should be level with the saddle top, the distance from the nose of the saddle to the straight part of the bars to be equal to the distance between the tips of the outstretched fingers and the sharp point of the elbow, the old-fashioned "cubit".

Having fixed this position, ride it for a couple of weeks, perfecting it at all possible, a couple of rides over 50 miles. You should be able by this time to decide on and make any slight modifications which will add to your comfort without impairing your efficiency.

A sudden increase in pressure on the pedals should result in the arms coming from a position of rest on the bars to one of pulling. You should be able to sit up with your hands off the bars without any alteration of your seating on the saddle or feeling of unbalance. You should at all times feel perfectly balanced, and "in" your machine rather than "on" it.

Whatever you do, once having fixed your position to your liking do not keep altering it. And never, never, copy the position of some crack rider just because you think it may be faster. It is for him; but for you, your own tried and perfected position is always the fastest best.

NOT SURPRISING. Verbose and vehement to a degree when discussing such things as gears, courses, performances and positions with one of his ilk, the average cyclist is usually diffident and slightly inarticulate when the string of his emotions and innermost feelings is involved. Therefore I was not surprised that the majority of letters in answer to my last week's question, "Why do YOU ride a cycle?", made hard work of the matter and really said very little. After the reading of the letters and listening in to a group of riders discussing the subject I came to the conclusion that their feelings could be best summed up in the immortal words of the almost immortal Bentley, "I like it, EFF".

The records go round and around and the latest to go the way of all records were the Team and Individual for the 50 Miles Time Trial. The event was the

Kai Tak Exiles Open 50 T. T., and they celebrated it by taking the team record away from the REME CC with a new time of 0-30-00, beating the REME team by 20 seconds in the process.

Gower of Sai Wan confirmed his NT Road Circuit Record form by finishing in 2-7-50, thus edging Sanderson of the record he had held for a scant seven minutes, after beating the previous best time by Hurford put up last season at 2-10-40.

As a slight recompense for losing a winning team medal, Lord set up new figures of 2-17-48 for the Veterans' Record at the distance. Despite all this spate of record-breaking, the chief topic of conversation was the bad luck of Rolt, 7 Hussars, who had the misfortune to be detailed for Guard duty and had the galling experience of standing at his post and watching the riders pass and repass on their journey.

The misfortune was equally that of the 7 Hussars as Rolt, probably the fittest in the Colony at the distance, was confidently expected to win the event and give the riders their first entry on the Record Book.

And a strange sidelight on the peculiar workings of a cyclist's mind was that the riders most upset at Rolt's unexpected absence were the very ones who have to lose his ride. Perhaps his turn will come another day, but good days such as this are not often seen in this part of the world—it is either too hot or too windy, or both.

MORE CONCRETE

The projected race over the Grand Prix circuit in Macao is now becoming more of a concrete thing with the organisation in the capable hands of Mr Carlos H. da Silva and his able team of assistants from the Automobile Club of Portugal.

This group was responsible for the organising of the Grand Prix event and we are fortunate to be in the position of being able to benefit from their experience. Firm date is January 12, a Monday, and the distance is to be 15 laps of the 3.9 miles circuit.

I was talking of the race to Eddie Carvahlo the other day, and in his opinion the circuit will be ideal, providing tests of stamina, endurance and all-round riding ability, the numerous bends and hills calling for constant vigilance and adaptability on the part of the riders.

He has promised to be there himself and I think he will find the race equally as exciting as the motor car event, in spite of the difference in speeds. It is expected that there will be a large entry from the Macao Clubs, especially Army, in addition to which there will be a fairly full representation from our own riders. This event has all the hallmarks of a winner, and will probably be but the first of an annual series.

NOVICES' DAY

No. 58 Coy. RASC is showing fine form in the Major Unit Competition and have already amassed 205 points to give them 6 points from 3 matches played.

In the Minor (HK) Section HKTCU lead the way with maximum points from three games and, as their total of 163 points shows, they are scoring well.

Four teams are doing well in the Minor (NT) Section and 64 Fd. Sqn. RE, FEF, 50 Fd. Sqn. RE, and 1900 AOP Ft. all have 4 points.

Once again the organisers remind units of the necessity of getting their games played off as soon as possible and ensuring that results are correctly notified to the appropriate authority.

The Army South cricket team was a shade unfortunate not to take full points from the game against KCC at the week-end. A dogged defence by the KCC batsmen forced the soldiers to a draw.

TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The organisers of the Army Tennis Championships in Hong Kong must be very satisfied with the response to this season's competitions.

A large entry list

contains many well-known names and with 70 competitors in the Men's Singles, 38 pairs in the Men's Doubles, 20 pairs in the Mixed Doubles, 12 competitors in the Ladies' Singles and seven pairs in the Ladies' Doubles there is a big expectation of some first class play.

One interesting feature

of the draws occurs in the Men's Singles. Two Warrant Officers Class II, both named Murphy, and both from the Royal Artillery were among the entrants.



There has been no more worthy occupant of the spot of honour at the top of the Sports Parade than L/Cpl. Smith of the 1st Bn. King's Own Regt. who scored such a decisive victory in the Land Forces Cross Country Championship last Friday.

Corporal Smith ran a well judged and well planned race and the applause which greeted him as he raced to the finishing pen showed that his was indeed a popular success.

While all the individual honours went to L/Cpl. Smith, special mention must be made of Lt. Burch who did a wonderful job in marshalling his team from the 1st Bn. Essex Regt. into first place in the Major Units Team Championship.

The Minor Units Championship was won by H.Q. 48 Gorkha Infantry Brigade.

When the 1954-55 New Australia sailed from Hong Kong yesterday, two of the Army's brightest soccer stars were on board.

Many compliments have already been paid to L/Cpl. Robson by all sections of the community and there is no doubt that he was a most popular member of both the Army and Colony sides.

Robson will have plenty of opportunity to talk over his games in Hong Kong for Bdr. Eaton, who made such a short but spectacular appearance in two vital games against Kwong Wah, is also aboard the troopship.

Robson's departure will leave a gap in the Army representative side that will be hard to fill. Although Robson has it that another star player is on his way.

It seems likely that Cpl. Lewis will take over from Eaton in goal and according to all reports he has already shown that he is well capable of making a good job of looking after this most responsible position in the team.

NOVICES' BOXING

The various Novices' Boxing Championships has been altered from the Church of England Institute at Fanling to the Swimming Pool at Sek Kong.

Weigh-in will be at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 13, and competitors are reminded that Medical and Novice Status Certificates are to be produced at that time.

The preliminary rounds of the competition will be at 2 o'clock on Monday, Dec. 13, 10 o'clock and 2 o'clock on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

The finals are scheduled for Thursday, December 16, and the time at which boxing will start is to be announced later.

Once again the Squash Championships have proved to be a popular event and 14 teams from 12 different units have entered for the Inter-Unit Competitions.

First round games have to be played off by December 24 and the Finals are listed to take place at Victoria Barracks on January 16.

BASKETBALL LEAGUES

The Land Forces Basketball League are now in full swing, but so far only the Major Unit League and the Minor (HK), Clubs, especially Army, in addition to which there will be a fairly full representation from our own riders. This event has all the hallmarks of a winner, and will probably be but the first of an annual series.

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One interesting feature of the draws occurs in the Men's Singles. Two Warrant Officers Class II, both named Murphy, and both from the Royal Artillery were among the entrants.

SCOTLAND'S

SLOGAN—ATTACK!

By Harry Andrew

London, Dec. 7. The order of the day for Scotland's team before they play Hungary at Hampden today will be "Play all-out attacking football. Go for goals."

That news—the best possible, I submit—was given to me by a selector.

He added: "To attempt any safety-first defensive measures would be stupid. We are fighting to win this match, not just to save our faces."

How very right he is. And how happy I was to hear him say it.

I saw the Hungarians take six goals off England. Half the reason at least was that the Englishmen had worked out an elaborate system of retreating defence.

ONLY

Its only merit was that it permitted the Hungarians to give a wonderful demonstration of attacking football... the best I have ever seen.

Thank goodness Scotland has decided not to make the same mistake.

This selector said: "Our team, in my opinion, has been given a glorious chance. There is so much to gain, so little to lose. If we win, our boys will be famous for all time. The Wembley Wizards will be forgotten."

Of that there is no doubt either. The Hungarians have already picked their team. We know the full extent of our task. There are three changes from what was recognised as Hungary's best side—and, we are told, "all are improvements."

Scotland Should

Lack Little

In Teamwork

Glasgow, Dec. 8.

Scotland, with three new internationals and eight changes from the side held to a draw by Ireland last month, face a stern task against Hungary, world cup finalists, at Hampden Park here today.

After their unhappy World Cup experiences, when they lost to Austria and Uruguay, Scotland have taken unprecedented measures to recover some of their lost standing in the football world.

Three trial matches were played, and the team which played Falkirk in the final trial will face Hungary. They will have had the advantage of playing together and should lack little in teamwork.

Close marking and swift tackling could be Scotland's answer to the speedy, thrustful Hungarian attack.

One unusual feature of the reshuffled Scottish side is that it contains no players from either Rangers or Celtic, the two premier Glasgow teams.

The Hungarians, whose chief strength lies in their inside-forward trio, Kocsis, Hidalguiti and Puskas, will make their first acquaintance with the formidable "Hampden" roof from a capacity crowd of 134,000, which can have an unsettling effect on even the most phlegmatic.—Reuter.

HKRA SHOOT

The Hongkong Rifle Association carried out another practice shoot at Kai Tak Range last Sunday with 20 members attending. The weather conditions were favourable for shooting; the light being good and there was no disturbing wind.

The scores were about average and quite a number of contestants scored over 90 points. Lt. Orpen-Smellie, at last carried away the winning Spoon with 90 out of a possible 105 points. He is a very consistent shot, and should do well at the Hongkong Brierley Meeting next January. The following are the winners of spoons.

S.R. (15)		200x 500x 600x Avg.	
Class "A"	1. Smellie	33	33
Class "B"	2. Greenwood	30	31
Class "C"	3. Goldthorpe	22	28
Class "A"	4. Major Envor	31	30
Class "B"	5. Major Envor	31	30
Class "C"	6. Major Envor	31	30
Class "A"	7. Major Envor	31	30
Class "B"	8. Major Envor	31	30
Class "C"	9. Major Envor	31	30
Class "A"	10. Major Envor	31	30
Class "B"	11. Major Envor	31	30
Class "C"	12. Major Envor	31	30

The next practice shoot will be held on Sunday, December 19, at 9 a.m. at Kai Tak "A" Range. Firing will again be at 300, 500 and 600 yards.



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HONGKONG KOWLOON

Cambridge Win Inter-Varsity Rugby Match

Twickenham, Middlesex, Dec. 7.

Cambridge beat Oxford by three points (a penalty goal scored in the 10th minute) to nil today in what was generally considered as one of the poorest inter-university rugby matches for a long time.

It was mainly a muddled mauling battle, with few thrills and few good movements. The handling of both teams was faulty and the passing was generally bad.

Cambridge, slight favourites, were worthy winners, though Oxford missed two fairly easy penalties in the first half. It was a clean, sporting game and in this respect a great improvement on last year.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Man of the match was Cambridge fullback Peter Davies. In addition to his penalty goal from 40 yards after 10 minutes, his cool, accurate long kicking kept Oxford at bay. Indeed, territorially Cambridge had more of the game, though Oxford were superior in both the set scrums and the line-outs.

Oxford made the mistake of playing too much round their South African international, Paul Johnstone, who played at stand-off half instead of centre three-quarter, where he was originally to play.

The South African was well marked by his rivals, and he was never able to show his brilliance. It was a bad day for him for he also missed both of the penalty kicks.

Cambridge forwards were the better in the loose and faster than their opponents and, though the Oxford three-quarters saw more of the ball than their opposite numbers, the Cambridge forwards prevented them making much headway.

About 50,000 people watched the game in cold weather. They went home somewhat disappointed, for the play never at any time reached great heights.

It was the 73rd game of the series, in which Oxford lead by 33 wins to 28, with 12 games drawn.—Reuter.

Ryder Cup Team Places In Order Of Merit

London, Dec. 7.

The Professional Golfers Association Committee have, according to an announcement today, decided that the first seven players for the next British Ryder Cup team—against the United States in America next year—shall play themselves into the side. They will be the leaders in the order of merit table after five British tournaments and the Open Championship of 1955.

The remaining three places will be filled later.

For the 1953 match, at Wentworth, Surrey, 17 possibilities were named in August, and a month later they attended for trials before the team of ten was named.—Reuter.

Danes Beat Welsh In Thomas Cup Tie

Cardiff, Dec. 7.

Denmark overwhelmed Wales in their Thomas Cup Badminton tournament, second round, this evening, winning all nine encounters during the two days of the match.

Denmark will now meet Ireland in Dublin in the European semi-final on December 10 and 11.—Reuter.

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"CARTHAGE"	4th Jan. 1955	10th Feb. 1955

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Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CORFU"	14th December	17th Jan. 1955
"CANTON"	21st Jan. 1955	10th Feb. 1955
"CHUSAN"	28th Jan. 1955	2nd March 1955
"CARTHAGE"	4th Feb. 1955	10th March 1955

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(1) will call at London

French MPs
To Raise
Own Salaries

Paris, Dec. 7. Salaries of France's 615 members of Parliament are to be raised by 25,582 francs (£25) to 212,582 francs (£212) a month. It was announced in the National Assembly today. The increase was announced while the Assembly was passing its budget for 1955, in line with present rises in French civil service pay. French deputies are exempt of their salary pay reduced rates on the railways and can make 3,000 francs (£3) worth of free telephone calls a year. —Reuters.

PROCEDURES
TO STOP
PIRATING

Manchester, Dec. 7. The Japanese cotton industry representatives conferring here with Cotton Board officials have agreed to recommend the need for new procedures in the Japanese cotton and rayon industries to ensure the originality of designs before committing them to fabric.

A joint statement issued through the Manchester Chamber of Commerce today said the Japanese representatives described the measures they had taken to combat designs. The statement said the Japanese representatives had agreed to send a delegation to Japan to discuss the issue.

INDEMNITY

The Japanese delegates said many of the complaints of British firms had arisen from the submission of designs to Japanese producers by foreign buyers. It was their practice to secure indemnity certificates from foreign buyers. The joint statement said the British representatives appreciated the efforts made by the Japanese industry but pointed out there had been a considerable number of cases in which British designs had been copied. They also pointed out that procedures followed in Britain avoided the possibility of designs being copied. —France-Press.

ELEANOR PARKER
COLLAPSES

Hollywood, Dec. 7. Film star Eleanor Parker collapsed on her movie set of exhaustion today and was ordered by her doctor to remain in Cedars of Lebanon Hospital. Miss Parker, wed to artist Paul Clemen, on Thanksgiving Day, was overworking on her picture, "Interrupted Melody." Dr. Myron Prinzmetal said—United Press.

Finland Taking
Measures To
Lower Costs

Helsinki, Dec. 7. Finland's new Coalition Government is taking measures to force down the cost of living index by four per cent before the end of this year.

By doing this, the Ministers hope to keep the peace between the clothing interests of town and country here and to stave off a fresh wave of inflation and the ever present risk of another devaluation of the currency.

The principal measures are:
1. Reductions in food prices. Butter will go down from 410 marks (about 14 shillings) to 340 marks (about eleven shillings and sixpence) a kilogramme (2 1/2 lbs) and grain by an average of three marks (about one penny farthing) per kilogramme.
2. The removal of the purchase tax on clothing and clothes materials.

3. A reduction of the general bank rate from five and three quarters per cent to four and three quarters per cent.
4. An increase in imports of essential every day goods in the hope that they will become cheaper through being more plentiful.

FOOD PRICES

The cut in food prices and the abolition of the purchases tax on clothing will, the Government believes, reduce the cost of living index from its present figure of 104 to 100 points before Christmas. This reduction is important because, if the index had been allowed to go on creeping up and had reached 105 points, there would have had to be a general increase in wages. Under an agreement made by the Government, employers' organisations and the trade unions in October 1951, the cost of living index was re-calculated and given a basic figure of 100 points. Wages were bound to it and it was agreed that they should rise automatically if it rose by an average of five per cent in any quarter. There was every sign that the index would rise by five per cent to 105 by the end of the

JOINTLY PLANNED

The Government's measures, jointly planned by its two constituent parties, the Agrarians, representing the farmers and forest owners, and the Social Democrats, representing the industrial and lower-paid white collar workers, have, they hope, wide support—if they work.

Many Finns, including members of the two Government parties, are, however, not sure that they will work. For one thing, the measures will cost the nation about 27,000,000,000 marks (about £45,000,000) in lost revenue from purchase tax and in increased subsidies to farmers.

The Agrarians would not agree to cheaper food unless farmers received better returns.

The farmers could claim better returns under a special agreement, made in November 1952, which stipulates that if agricultural income (as calculated each year by the specially appointed agricultural income committee) did not keep pace with rises in general wages, the farmers should be compensated either by increases in the price of their produce or by state subsidy.

In forcing down the cost of living index, the Government must, therefore, use national funds to "buy points," as its opponents are saying.

FINAL COUNT

In the final count, the taxpayer must pay for his cheaper cost of living.

Nor are the Government's critics satisfied that the Finnish man-in-the-street will be satisfied that the cost of living really has gone down. He mistrusts the index and says that it does not fairly record the strain of rising prices on the family budget.

A nationwide survey by the Social Ministry confirms this. It found that the cost of living was already really higher than that shown in the index because the prices of many goods which most families buy are not taken into account when the index is calculated each month. Yet it is these very goods which have increased most in price.

Finally, the critics say, the alliance between the Social Democrats and the Agrarians is an unnatural one.

Traditionally, the Agrarians accuse the Social Democrats of starving the farmer to feed the factory hand, while the Social Democrats accuse the Agrarians of favouring the farmer at the expense of the industrial worker.

This "town versus country" clash has been at the root of most of Finland's postwar Cabinet crises. Yet the country has a political stability which has enabled most Cabinet crises to be turned in new milestones on her steady march back to peacetime prosperity.—China Mail Special.

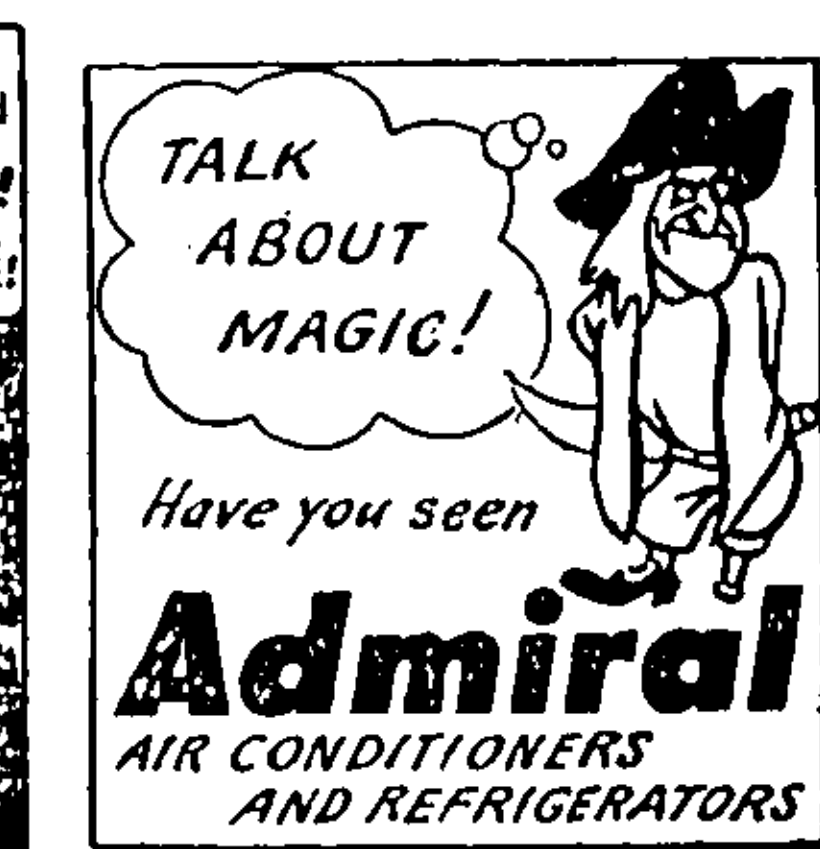
Mail Notices

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8
By Air
Indo-China, 6 p.m.
Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand & Ceylon, 6 p.m.
Switzerland, Denmark, Norway & Sweden, 6 p.m.
Japan, 6 p.m.
North Borneo by Surface
Macao, 6 p.m.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9
By Air
Thailand, Burma, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain & Europe, 9 a.m.
Japan, 11 a.m.
Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A. & Canada, 1 p.m.
Philippines, N. Borneo, 6 p.m.

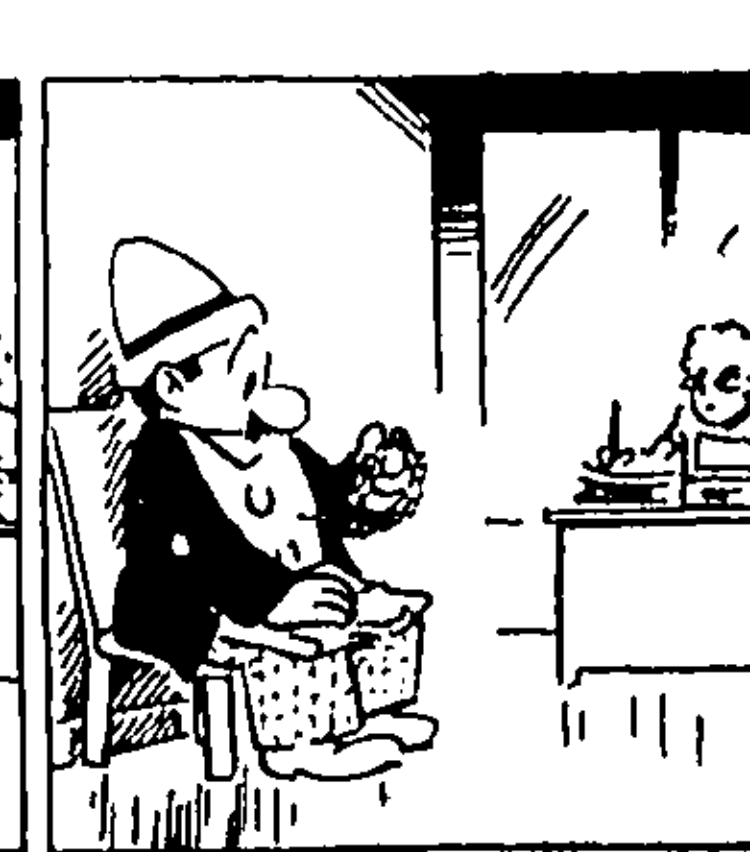
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

By Lee Falk and Phil Davis



FERD'NAND

By Mik



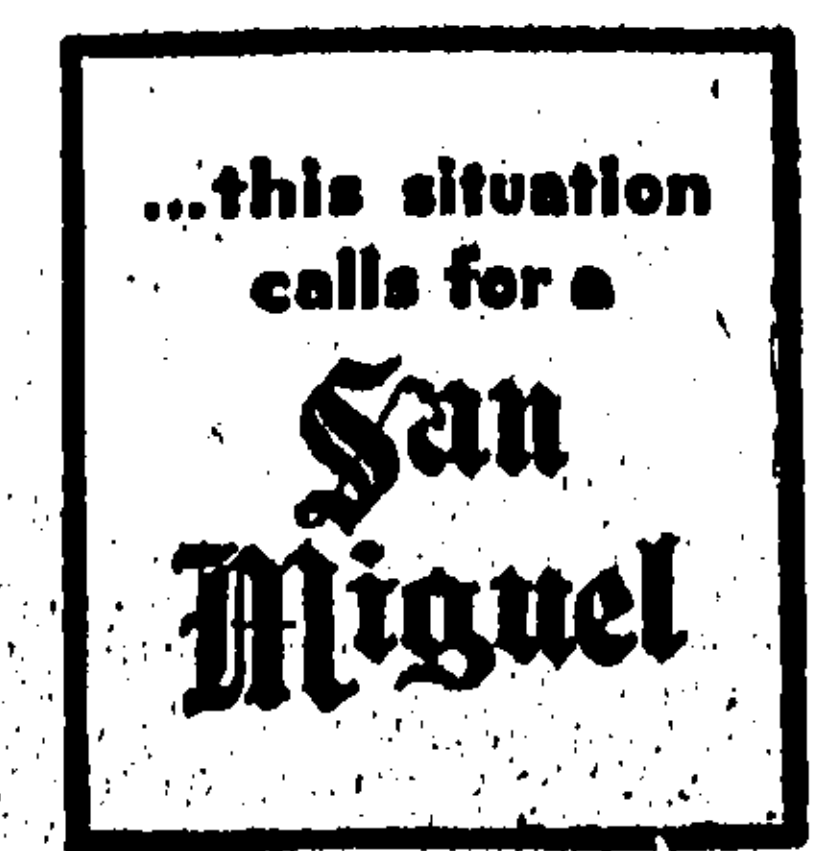
NANCY

By Ernie Bushmiller



JOHNNY HAZARD

By Frank Robbins



...this situation
calls for a
San Miguel

EVERETT LINES

EVERETT ORIENT LINE
Fast regular freight — refrigerator — passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Rangoon, Calcutta and Chittagong.

"NOREVERETT"

Arrives Dec. 16 from Manila.
Sails Dec. 17 for Singapore, Penang, Rangoon, Calcutta & Chittagong.

"LENEVERETT"

Arrives Dec. 19 from Singapore.
Sails Dec. 19 for Kobe & Yokohama.
(Accepting cargo for transhipment Kobe/Pusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STAR LINE

Fast regular freight — refrigerator — passenger service to Korea, Japan, Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf.

"STAR ARCTURUS"

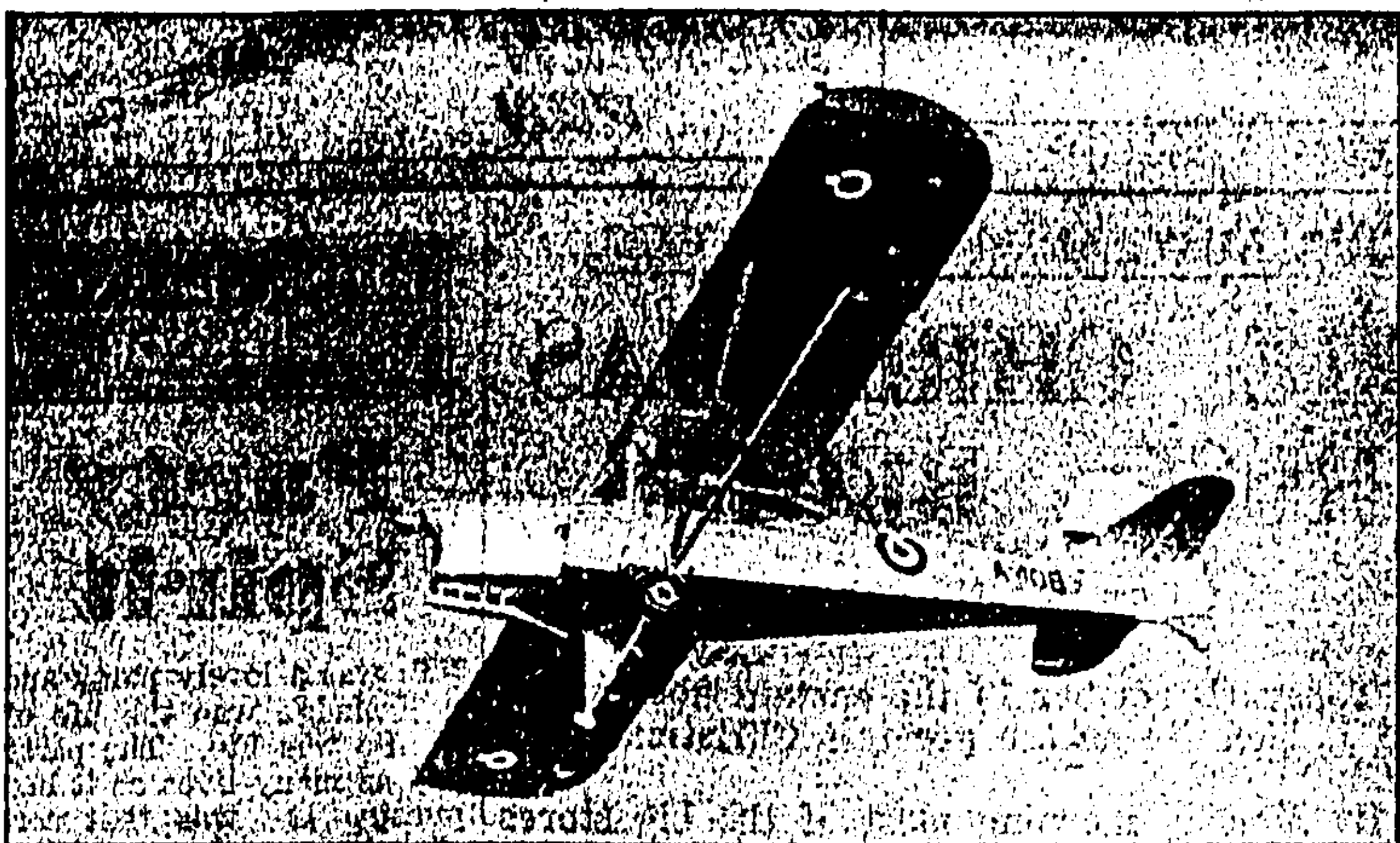
Arrives Dec. 11 from Japan.
Sails Dec. 12 for Cebu, Singapore, Port Swettenham, Madras, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Chittagong, Basrah, Kuwait & Bahrain.

"THAI"

Arrives Dec. 13 from Singapore.
Sails Dec. 13 for Kobe & Yokohama.
(Accepting cargo for transhipment Kobe/Pusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

EVERETT STEAMSHIP CORPORATION S/A
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OUR WEEKLY AVIATION NEWS



An Auster similar to the ones used by the recent Antarctic expedition.

Austers Were Great But I Got In The Road

Two Austers, which are among the lightest and cheapest powered aircraft made in Britain, played an outstanding part in the exploration of the Antarctic during the recent expedition.

The Austers, which are among the lightest and cheapest powered aircraft made in Britain, played an outstanding part in the exploration of the Antarctic during the recent expedition.

The Austers were the 'eyes' of the expedition. Operating from a skid undercarriage, an Auster could land on a flat, open area, and was used to survey the ice and to locate the bases of the expedition.

Survey photography and reconnaissance were the main tasks of the Austers, which flew a total of sixty-four missions over the icy wilderness at a latitude of more than 66 degrees South.

Simple Refuelling

The refuelling of the Austers was simple. The aircraft was pushed across the ice alongside the ship and a hose from the deck to the Auster's tank did the rest. Dugout penguins invariably attended the operation, and hampered it considerably. Hundreds of them crowded round the ship, a constant nuisance to the pilots taking off and landing from the ice nearby.

The aircrews soon marked out with flags the most southerly airstrip in use by the R.A.A.F. But ten days later, the Kista Dan, while approaching the expedition's base, destroyed the strip by breaking up the ice on which it had been established.

The expedition's Auster made one forced landing, when water froze in a fuel line, causing an engine failure. The only damage (in spite of a strong cross wind, and rough ice in the area) was a broken ski. A fine tribute to the slow-finding qualities of the aircraft.

A new type ventilator which can be fitted to the windscreen has been designed by the makers, particularly for Austers operating in the tropics. It is certainly a versatile aeroplane.

The Folland Midge, prototype of the Gnat light fighter, has dived twice in a day through the sound barrier. The Midge's achievement is all the more remarkable in that the aircraft has an engine giving only 1,040 lb. of thrust. The Gnat itself will be powered by the Bristol Orpheus, which gives three times the power of the Midge's Armstrong Siddeley Viper. The Gnat is expected to be as fast as aircraft with twice its power.

The chief test pilot of Folland's, Squadron Leader E.A. Tennant, began his supersonic

dives at 37,000 feet, passing through the sound barrier at about 24,000 feet. The aircraft exceeded Mach 1. The speed of sound for a five or six seconds before the pilot began to experience a slight change of trim, which is caused by supersonic flight.

In level flight the Midge can exceed 600 mph and it weighs only two tons. It is a much lighter than most modern fighters. The Gnat will be able to serve in either fighter-bomber or interceptor roles.

Forty Viscounts

The forty turboprop Viscount aircraft which have been ordered by Capital Airlines of Washington D.C. from Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd. will have the full support of an efficient, up-to-date servicing system, which they begin operations next year.

A team of experts from the service department of the manufacturer is now in Washington setting the wheels in motion. A store from which all spares likely to be required for the aircraft will be provided, being established at Alexandria, Virginia, which is only a few miles from Washington Airport, where Capital's fleet is based.

Office facilities are being provided in Washington to deal with all the after-sales servicing of the Capital Airlines Viscounts, and of the fleets of possible future customers in the United States.

The first of the forty Viscounts for the American airline will be delivered in the spring of 1955.

The Rolls-Royce Dart turboprop engines used in the Viscount will be overhauled at Capital Airlines' base at Washington Airport.

Trans-Canada Airlines, which has ordered 22 Viscounts, will also have a requirement for the after-sales service facilities of the manufacturer, so an official from the Vickers team now in Washington will visit Montreal to discuss this with T.C.A. before leaving the Americas on his way home.

New Wind Tunnel

The first part of the Aircraft Research Association's new wind tunnel exhibition is now open to the public. The workshop, machine tools are now being made on the first batch of actual models. They are being put in hand straight away so as to be ready for immediate testing as soon as the tunnel gets going.

The tunnel itself is well on the way to completion. Half of the circuit is already set on its foundations and being welded up. The cooler and reservoir are almost completed, main structure for the laboratory and offices is well advanced.

Layout provides for the maximum possible amount of setting up of models to be done outside the tunnel, so that the change-over from one model to the next will be made with minimum waste of time. An electronic calculator will greatly accelerate the speed of running through each series of tests.

The A.R.A.'s tunnel is for applied tests on wings, fuselages, etc. of particular aircraft right from the early project stage, not for fundamental research. It will give transonic speeds through a test-section



take feet by eight-one and a half ton of an per second. A smaller tunnel will be added later for speeds up to three times the speed of sound.

A small nucleus of staff has already been engaged, preparing for operation while direct construction work. Further vacancies are being filled as time goes on.

The world's airlines, beginning to plan now for future helicopter operations, have set up commissions of their own to examine the problems of flying in and out of the centre of big cities.

A meeting in Brussels in February will study reports from the commissions.

Brussels is the centre of the world's first international helicopter network, operated by the Belgian airline, Sabena.

Traffic Control

One commission are studying the question of surface and roof-top landing grounds. Another will draft requirements for air traffic control, navigation and communications.

The first session of the helicopter group of the International Air Transport Association has just been held in Montreal. Many airlines were represented.

Captain J. W. G. James, Flight Operations Director, British European Airways, and BEA's Chief Engineer, Mr. Beverley Shennstone, attended for Britain.

Captain Anselme Vernieuwe, the Belgian pilot who recently flew a helicopter from Brussels to the South Bank, took the chair.

Among principles adopted: The helicopter must not be fettered by confinement to the limitations of fixed-wing aircraft. We must not accept fixed-wing answers to helicopter questions.

Regulation of helicopter operations should not become rigidly fixed before experience proves the need for regulation and the most desirable ways of applying it. The helicopter is making its own rules day by day.

Sabena New says: "Young Sabena passengers, boys and girls alike, now have a pleasant surprise awaiting them in the company's aircraft. This consists of the ingenious way their meals during the journey are served up to attract and amuse them. The lunch-box contains not only a good substantial meal but a whole series of cardboard games, in the form of bridges, giant dice, drafts and geometrical puzzles. The best present of all goes to the little 'prize' for their lunch-box. The form of a credit at the bottom of which, beside the sandwiches, there lies a paper dolly."

S. KOREA'S PROBLEM

Losing Foreign Exchange As Troops Withdraw

TUNGSTEN PLAN FAILS

Seoul, Dec. 7. South Korea is losing at least \$44,000,000, or the equivalent of some £15,000,000 a year, as the majority of the American forces withdraw from this peninsula, according to official estimates here. Most of the loss will represent the reduction of garrison expenses.

When the United Nations Command had eight army divisions and the full strength of the Fifth Air Force in Korea, it drew the equivalent, in hwan, of 60,000,000 (over £20,000,000) a year.

The United Nations Command used the Korean money to pay the wages of about 150,000 Korean employees and to purchase locally obtainable military supplies.

World Cotton Markets

New York, Dec. 7. Cotton futures today fluctuated narrowly in quiet trading. Activity slackened as a number of traders marked time pending the Government's final crop estimate of the season to be announced tomorrow.

At the close the list ruled up 2 to 9 points. The market opened up 3 to 1 point. New Orleans closed up 2 to 5 points. Market experts thought the trade had discounted a Government crop figure of about 13,500,000 bales. This would be around 300,000 bales more than the last official estimate and compare with last year's crop of 16,365,000 bales.

Trading volumes and open interests in the Exchange today were:

Month	Volume	Open Interests
Dec	3,000	10,100
Jan	40,400	108,500
Feb	25,600	108,700
Mar	18,000	200,500
Apr	1,000	115,000
May	400	71,000
Jun	400	23,000
Jul	100	13,100
Aug	100	2,070,000
Total	103,000	2,070,000

Prices of cotton futures closed today as follows:

Month	Price
Spot	14.10
Dec	14.10
Jan	14.10
Feb	14.10
Mar	14.10
Apr	14.10
May	14.10
Jun	14.10
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TRIAL OF DR NG YUK-KIN ON RAPE CHARGE BEGINS

The trial of Dr Ng Yuk-kin, 49, on a charge of rape, opened before the Puisne Judge, Mr Justice C. W. Reece in the Criminal Sessions this morning.

In the course of his address to the jury, Mr W. A. Blair-Kerr said: "His Lordship will tell you (and I think it is fair to say) that the trial of this case is a trial of the law, and not a trial of the facts. The facts are not in dispute. The law is what is at issue."

This is a charge of rape. The essential facts in the case are: (1) Did the accused have carnal knowledge of the girl? (2) If the answer is yes, then did she, or did she not, consent to such carnal knowledge of herself by the accused?

NOT COMPLETED ACT
His Lordship will tell you that carnal knowledge does not mean a completed act of sexual intercourse, nor does it mean necessarily that there should be any emission of semen by the male. Carnal knowledge is a legal term, and it means knowledge of the facts in this case.

ONE EXAMPLE
This is one example of rape by force. Again, this is a case of rape by force. In the first example, the victim is a girl in a lonely country lane, and she is being forced to have sexual intercourse with the accused. In the second example, the victim is a girl in a public place, and she is being forced to have sexual intercourse with the accused.

Continuing, Mr Blair-Kerr said that rape was an offence known to the law for a very long time. Rape was the carnal

knowledge of a woman without her consent.

He said: "I told you just now that carnal knowledge is a legal term. It means knowledge of the facts in this case. The facts are not in dispute. The law is what is at issue."

An old definition of rape was: "Carnal knowledge of a woman without her consent by force, or by fraud, or by intimidation." This is a definition of rape by force. It is a definition of rape by fraud. It is a definition of rape by intimidation.

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Fraud, false pretences (call it what you will), that is how the accused in this case managed, in the Crown's submission, to accomplish what he did, namely, the rape of this young virgin, Tam Shun.

Outlining the facts the Prosecutor said that the accused carried on his medical practice at 430 Nathan Road, first floor. He employed two women, one of them, although unqualified as far as Hongkong qualifications were concerned, acted as a nurse in the accused's consulting room; the other as a receptionist.

The complainant, Tam Shun, and the accused were prior to August 27, complete strangers to one another, the Prosecutor said. The girl was 24 years of age, a spinster, and was employed as a dress-maker in a factory in Kowloon.

On August 27 the complainant had a pain in her stomach and was taken to accused's surgery at the Nathan Road address. She was accompanied by several women and one of them went into the consulting room with her.

EXAMINATION
Mr Blair-Kerr said that it was a fact that the complainant was examined once every three months. It was of interest to mention that accused immediately started asking her questions about whether she was married, whether she had any boy friends, etc.

The accused then proceeded to examine her and this included an examination of her private parts while her face was covered with a cloth.

The complainant would tell the jury what she felt during the examination. She would also say that she received two injections in the buttocks from the nurse and later the accused made an appointment for her to return the next day.

accused deliberately put this girl into a pliable state of complete drowsy relaxation by some drug in some unknown quantity, probably the drug was Pethidine.

The Prosecutor said that Dr O'Leary the well known expert in anaesthetics will give evidence regarding the drug.

Concluding, Mr Blair-Kerr said that this is my case. Rape by fraud. There may also have been an element of force later, but the deed was done by fraud. He asked the jury to give the case their best attention because "if this man is guilty, as we say he is, his crime does not have any redeeming feature."

The trial is proceeding.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hongkong Currency
Sir—Your description of the Hongkong currency situation in yesterday's China Mail is, regret to say, inaccurate, even more inaccurate than the official chapter on banking in the Hongkong Annual Report.

For examples in no British colony as you infer, by the Treasury. The Hongkong & Shanghai Bank does not have "full sterling cover" in London for its note-issue as even the most cursory glance at its published balance sheet would have informed you.

I have already given an accurate account of the monetary system of this Colony elsewhere. FRANK H. H. KING, University of Hongkong.

[Our remarks were based on information supplied by the bank and Government.—Ed., China Mail.]

H.M.S. Newcastle Arrives

HMS Newcastle fired a 13-gun salute to the flag of Rear-Admiral G. V. Gladstone, Flag Officer, Second-in-Command, East Station, on entering harbour this morning. The Admiral's flagship, HMS Birmingham, followed with a seven-gun salute.

Newcastle, under the command of Captain R. B. Honeywill, had been exercising in Tolo Harbour for the last several days.

The 9,100-ton cruiser left here in April last year, for home by way of the Panama Canal for recommission. Newcastle, which is expected to be based here during most of 1955, will become Admiral Gladstone's flagship.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"I fell in love with her in high school—I forget now whether she was the one with the convertible or the one who made the swell hamburgers!"

Last Night's Sino-British Orchestral Concert

Perhaps it was a good idea to leave the opening orchestral concert of the Sino-British Club Music Group till fairly late in the autumn season. That there had been ample time for rehearsals in preparation for last night's concert at the Empire Theatre was proved by the precision and accuracy of the Orchestra under its conductor, Professor Arrigo Foa.

A nearly full house made for greater success, for it is always easier to play with increased enthusiasm to a large audience. However, some parts of the audience must be criticised against late arrival; it would be as well for the officials on the doors to be very strict about closing them punctually when the concert is about to begin.

OBVIOUSLY ANNOYED
Professor Foa was obviously annoyed at having to wait for late-comers to find their seats, and has many illustrious examples to follow in his righteous indignation. Sir Thomas Beecham would have been far more angry with the audience than Professor Foa was last night. However, that detail did not spoil a most enjoyable and satisfactory concert.

Schubert provided half of the programme, with some of the Ballet Music from "Romeo and Juliet" and the Symphony in B flat, No. 5. The latter music which opened the concert consists of two entr'actes, the first of which is less familiar, but the second well-known and loved. This music thoroughly suited the orchestra; the strings had good tone and volume, precision and discipline. Indeed, in some way discipline was the keynote of the concert.

At few moments was there any raggedness, and the woodwind and brass sections were steady.

INNOVATIONS
Some interesting innovations were to be seen in the latter, with two Police Band clarinetists playing the oboe parts, and Mr Philip Arnold very ably leading the horns.

It is worthy of comment how extremely versatile are some of these amateur musicians. The best example is, of course, Dr Bardi himself, who was first the conductor who did so much for the Orchestra in its early days, then oboist, and now the esteemed Leader.

The Orchestra is now a nice size and well-balanced, though there is a tendency sometimes for the brass to be a little overpowering. If the Orchestra continues to play at the Empire Theatre, which seems to suit it well, the numbers should not be increased, or only slightly.

After the Rosamunde Ballet Music came a String Suite by Purcell, called "The Gordian Knot Untied," said to have been an opera or fantasia, but of which nothing is now known except this suite and one other similar collection of pieces.

The three parts of this suite were played with grace, and certain dignity in the slower and quieter sections which is a new attribute of this orchestra, and shows its maturing process. In fact it can really be said that each individual of the orchestra is now becoming not only a better player, but a better musician, and the overall effect on the whole orchestra is noticeable.

A FINE OPENING
Professor Foa makes his orchestra a sympathetic "accompanist" in a concerto. Throughout the concert he gave evidence of emphasis on clearness and precision, which is typical also of the greatest Italian conductors. This was a fine opening to the season, and if the subsequent concert is as generally good as this one, Hongkong music-lovers will have a feast of music this spring. But please, audience, BE ON TIME!

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OUR AUSTRALIAN NEWSLETTER

THE CHRISTMAS RUSH BEGINS

From H. KING WOOD

Sydney.

Today (December 1) the curtain goes up on what is likely to be the greatest Christmas rush ever.

By Monday morning most of the big stores had removed the curtains from their windows revealing some of the greatest Christmas displays ever.

Christmas trees are sprouting on numerous awnings, carols are grinding out from hundreds of records, we have had some real Christmas weather in the way of heat, and one way and another everything seems set for another record.

And if anyone had any doubts that it was near Christmas there is one certain sign—bottled beer is in short supply!

COUNTRY'S ECONOMY
The country is also in fair shape to stand a record festive season. True, the price of wool has dropped and while a little below the last few seasons, it is still high compared with what was the recognised price in the old days.

But Australian factories are now producing more goods than at any time in the history of the Commonwealth, according to a survey by the Division of Industrial Development.

The survey showed that total output is now worth about £3,000 million a year—double that of 1938-39, 10 per cent more than 1951 and about four per cent higher than six months ago.

It forecasts that output could "double again" before 1955. It granted an economic climate favourable to investment from overseas.

The greatest increases in the last six months are for motor vehicles and tyres, electric motors and newsmint.

The one black spot in the survey—a warning that "the capture of overseas markets for a broader range of overseas goods against world competition is an inescapable necessity of the future."

It should also be added that employment throughout the Commonwealth is at present a record, and while civilian workers of Government authorities totalled nearly 700,000, even this is showing a small decrease.

200,000 NON-VOTERS
State Electoral Officer Bennett estimates that about 200,000 enrolled persons failed to vote in the Liquor Referendum held recently.

Each of these 200,000 are liable to a fine ranging up to a maximum of £2.

If Electoral Officer Bennett gives them all the minimum treatment the Treasury could make a nice profit out of the referendum—the Premier set aside £20,000 for it.

One of the reasons for the big non-vote is that the people largely believed the referendum to be a waste of time. Six p.m. closing, they thought, would ruin it. Instead, the 10 o'clockers finished up with a nice majority.

MENZIES' RECORD
Robert Gordon Menzies yesterday created a record by becoming Australia's longest serving Prime Minister.

He has been in office for seven years and 108 days, beating by one day the record of the late Billy Hughes.

Next after Mr Hughes came three outstanding premiers—Sir Joseph Lyons, the late John Curtin and the late Ben Chifley.

Mr Menzies created his record on the day Sir Winston Churchill turned 80, and the only link-up here is that both these statesmen made good their being politically washed up.

URANIUM FINDS
So many uranium finds are being made around these parts now that they have almost passed out of the category of news.

Latest rush is to the western New South Wales town of Carcoar, where a publican said there were more geiger counters than beer glasses in his bar.

The rush started yesterday week when the State Minister for Mines, Mr W. M. Gillian, described a find in the district as "the richest yet made in the State."

A publican, Mr Tom Hamilton, said prospectors who were arriving hourly, fell broadly into two groups—those who displayed geiger counters and those who did not.

He said the quiet types kept the counters out of sight.

"They come in and quietly pal up with the old boys who know these parts," he said. "After a while, the old boys

JOHN CLARKE'S CASEBOOK

Party Spirit

Sydney.

It was a lovely party and Madge was the life of it. So was Flo. The party had as many lives as it had guests. It was that sort of party.

There was gin and rum in plenty, and rollicking songs and ribald jokes that raised screams of knife-edge laughter. It was one of those parties that test the stamina of those present as severely as the charity of close neighbours.

Then, when it wanted two or three hours still to daylight, and the party was at its glorious height, an ice-cold hand was laid upon the gaiety. Laughter died, conversation withered, and guests began to move towards the door.

Someone had discovered there were no more cigarettes left.

WE'LL FIX THAT

"THASSALLRIGHT, dearie," Madge cried to her hostess, "Flo and me'll fix that."

"Sure," cried Flo, "Madge and me'll fix everything. You folks carry on, cigarettes? We'll get cigarettes."

But a minute, aside the half-hearted protests that they should put themselves to so much trouble, Flo, dark-haired, 37-year-old, and Madge, plump, blonde, bepectined and 43, left the party and set out to look for cigarettes.

They left the party and the party-spirit at once left them. Or perhaps the cold night air killed the tender plant of their mutual affection and joint amiability.

NAMES, NAMES

WHATEVER it was, they had hardly reached the street when Flo said: "Let's go home, Flo and me'll fix that."

At which Madge rounded on her and called her some very rude names. Flo returned the compliment. The two women's voices shrilled higher and higher.

Windows began to be thrown up and householders protested. A policeman in a nearby street hurried towards what sounded at the range of 100 yards like a riot.

"Now then," he said when he reached Madge and Flo, "be quiet, you two, go home."

WE HAD DECIDED

"CHE called me a..." said Flo.

"She is one and anyway she called me a..." Flo countered. The two resumed their wordy battle.

"I'm arresting you both," the policeman said, "for using insulting words and behaviour."

Madge and Flo were led to the police station. Later, in the morning, at Bow Street, they both pleaded not guilty to the charge against them.

"We'd just left each other after deciding not to go back to the party," said Flo haughtily, "when this policeman comes up and arrests us."

IN THE OFFICE

"CAN'T think why I'm here, I'm sure," Madge said with dignity. "I don't think even the constable knows what were here for. My friend had just left me and we were going home."

"You think there was no rhyme or reason in what the officer did?" inquired the magistrate, Mr E. G. Robey.

"Exactly," said Madge, sounding glad to have found someone sensible to talk to last.

"If I were to accept your evidence, I should have to come to the conclusion that the police were crazy," said Mr Robey. "I'm quite satisfied that you and others were making an awful noise, and at that time of morning it is quite likely to cause a breach of the peace. Someone might have thrown something at you from a window. Pay 10s each, please."

"This way," said the gaoler, and Madge and Flo went out, heaving impressive sighs of indignation, to join the party of fine-payers in the gaoler's office. A party that needed someone to be the life of it.

Annual Meeting

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Sea Training School and Ship Cadet, Stanley, will be held tomorrow at 3.30 p.m. in the Chambers of Mr Brook Bernacchi, Room 252, Prince's Building.

All supporters are welcome. The meeting will be followed by a small Cocktail Party in Mr Bernacchi's Chambers.

SAW DOCTOR SECOND TIME

Mr Blair-Kerr went on. She will say she came back next day about 12.30 p.m. or so, and after some time she saw the doctor again. On this occasion, she was accompanied by her cousin Tam Tin.

Tam Tin went into the consulting room and soon after Tam Shun was asked to lie on the bed there. Tam Tin was asked by accused to leave the consulting room and she did so, and the accused closed the consulting room door. She will tell you how he examined her and gave her two injections in the buttocks, how her clothing was removed and she was told by the accused that he was going to treat a pain in her private parts which would cause the expulsion of white stuff and thereafter she would feel fine.

DRUGS UNKNOWN
We have means of knowing what drug or drugs were injected into her body, nor the quantities of these drugs. The accused himself says one of the drugs was called Pethidine. The Crown does not suggest that the girl was drugged in any way. She herself says "My mind was awake, but I felt rather hysterical."

So you will have the complainant's evidence that she received the injections, and some time later felt abnormal (drowsy, hysterical and so on) and she is told when she is in this drowsy pliable state that this pill is going to be inserted into her body to make her fine.

She will then describe to you how she in fact felt something pressed into her private parts, which was just what she expected—namely something to be inserted in that part of her body. Now if that something which was inserted was the defendant's male organ, she was raped.

She will tell you how she became numb or weak, how she felt the closeness of a body to hers, and how she became frightened.

LEAVE NO DOUBT

This description, of course, in the Crown's submission, must in itself, leave no reasonable right-thinking man or woman in any doubt but that the accused, who was the only other person in that room, had raped this girl.

During this examination, the nurse was moving to and fro from the dispensary to the consulting room. She was absent during the latter episode described by the complainant, at least the complainant says she was not present when the cloth was put over her eyes.

Printed and published by WILLIAM ALICK GUNHAM for and on behalf of South China Morning Post Limited at 1-3 Wyndham Street, City of Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong.